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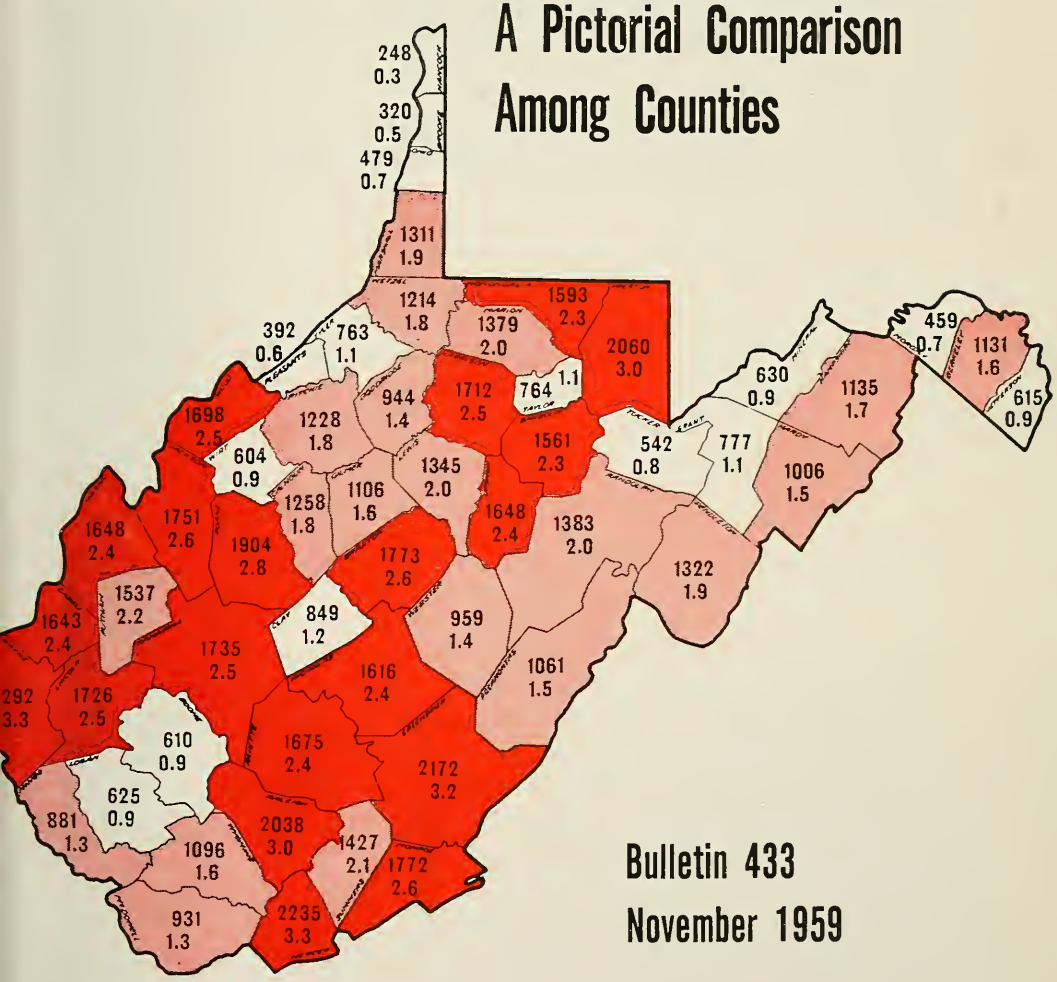
West Virginia Farming-

A Pictorial Comparison Among Counties



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THE AUTHORS

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ON THE COVER

This two-color map is one of 23 that clearly illustrates differences among farms in West Virginia. Factors given in the maps in this Bulletin include farm incomes, land use, livestock, farm operators, and level-of-living. The maps offer a pictorial description of individual counties in relation to neighboring counties.

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West Virginia Farming-

A Pictorial Comparison Among Counties

by

G. E. Toben

L. T. Warman

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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Summary

WEST Virginia farmers had a lower average net farm income in 1954 than farmers in any other state. Less than 1 per cent of West Virginia farmers had farm sales of $25,000 or more and about 90 per cent had farm sales of less than $2,500. This low-income situation is a problem not only to agriculture, but also of concern to industry, government, and education. Planning is necessary to improve the situation.

The principal sources of cash receipts from farms ranked according to their relative importance were dairy products, broilers, beef cattle, and eggs. Each of the other sources contributed less than 10 per cent of cash farm income. Those contributing 4 to 10 per cent of the cash receipts were apples, turkeys, and dairy animals.

Acreages in farms and land use influenced the farm income. Farms with gross sales under $1,200 averaged less than 100 acres. Those with sales of $5,000 or more averaged more than 300 acres. Farms with low incomes had a higher proportion of woodland; those with high incomes had a higher proportion of cropland.

A majority of the farms with relatively large gross sales are in the eastern part of the State, particularly in the Eastern Panhandle. The majority of the low-income farms are in the central and southern parts.

Many farmers worked away from their farms. About one-third had 200 days or more of off-farm work. Among economic groups, income from work off-farm increased in amount as the farm sales declined.

The farm-operator level-of-living was generally low. Farmers in nearly 50 per cent of the counties in West Virginia had indexes of level-of-living that were among the low one-fifth of the counties in the nation. In only 11 per cent of the counties were indexes greater than the United States average.

West Virginia Farming — A Pictorial Comparison Among Counties

G. E. TOBEN and L. T. WARMAN

DIFFERENCES among farms in West Virginia are many and varied. Understanding these differences, as well as knowing the similarities will help in preparing agricultural plans. This publication shows some of the relationships which influence the economic position of farmers in West Virginia. Particular emphasis is placed on factors which can be compared on county bases. These factors include items related to farm incomes, land use, livestock, farm operators, and level-of-living. To a large extent the factors are shown by counties on State maps. This procedure provides a pictorial description of individual counties in relation to neighboring counties. Legends on maps show areas of location and levels of concentration. Generally, the legend shows one level of concentration that accounts for about half the farms.

The 1954 Census of Agriculture is the principal source of information for this publication.[1] Most presentations are based on an analysis of census data. Only to a small extent are direct tabulations from the census repeated in this bulletin. Original data from which interpretations are made can be located readily because the sources are shown for each table and map.

Number of Farms

The 1954 Census of Agriculture reported 68,570 farms in West Virginia. This was nearly 1.5 per cent of all farms in the United States.

Wayne County had the largest number of farms; Hancock the smallest number (Map 1). Only five counties had more than 2,000 farms; these were Wayne, Mercer, Greenbrier, Preston, and Raleigh. The five counties with less than 500 farms were Hancock, Brooke, Pleasants, Morgan, and Ohio.

Farm Income

Farmers in West Virginia, compared with those in other states, had a relatively low level of farm sales in 1954. Less than 1 per cent of the

[1]U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. I, Pt. 15 and Vol. II.

Table 1. Number and Proportion of Farms by Economic Classes In West Virginia with United States Comparisons, 1954*

Economic Class	Value of Farm Products Sold Per Farm	Number of Farms in West Virginia	Per Cent by Economic Class	
			W. Va.	U. S.
I	$25,000 or more	355	0.5	2.8
II	$20,000 to $24,999	1,148	1.7	9.4
III	5,000 to 9,999	2,269	3.3	14.8
IV	2,500 to 4,999	3.162	4.6	17.0
V	1,200 to 2,499	5,737	8.4	15.9
VI**	250 to 1,199	8,833	12.9	9.7
All commercial		21,504	31.4	69.6
Part-time**	250 to 1,199	12,039	17.6	12.0
Residential	Less than 250	35,003	51.0	18.3
Abnormal (Institutional)		24	.0	0.1
		68,570	100.0	100.0

*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. II, pp. 1162 and 1165.

**Farms with sales of $250 to $1,199 were Class VI, provided the operator had less than 100 days of off-farm work and income of the operator and members of his family from non-farm sources was less than the value of all farm products sold; the other farms in this income group were classified as part-time.

farms had sales of $25,000 or more (Table 1). About 2 per cent had sales of $10,000 or more. Less than 6 per cent had sales of $5,000 or more.

When West Virginia was compared with the other states it was found that only North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee had a smaller proportion of farms with sales of $25,000 or more. Both Mississippi and West Virginia had 2.2 per cent of their farms with sales of $10,000 or more and only Tennessee had a smaller proportion. West Virginia had the smallest proportion of farms with sales of $5,000 to $10,000, and the smallest proportion of all farms with sales of $5,000 and more. It also had the smallest proportion of farms with sales of $2,500 or more.

More than 80 per cent of the farms in West Virginia sold less than $1,200 of farm products. No other state had so large a proportion of low-income farms.

The Census classified farms with sales of less than $1,200 into three groups. One group, called commercial class VI farms, was comprised of farms with sales of $250 to $1,199.[2] Seven states, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Georgia, had more low-income farms in this group than West Virginia. A second group was called part-time farms. By a slight margin, West Virginia had the largest proportion of part-time farms. Both the commercial class VI farms and the part-time farms had farm sales of $250 to $1,199; the principal difference between the two was in the amount of work off the farm. Only four states, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and South Carolina, had a larger proportion of farms in these two groups. The

[2]See footnote to Table 1.

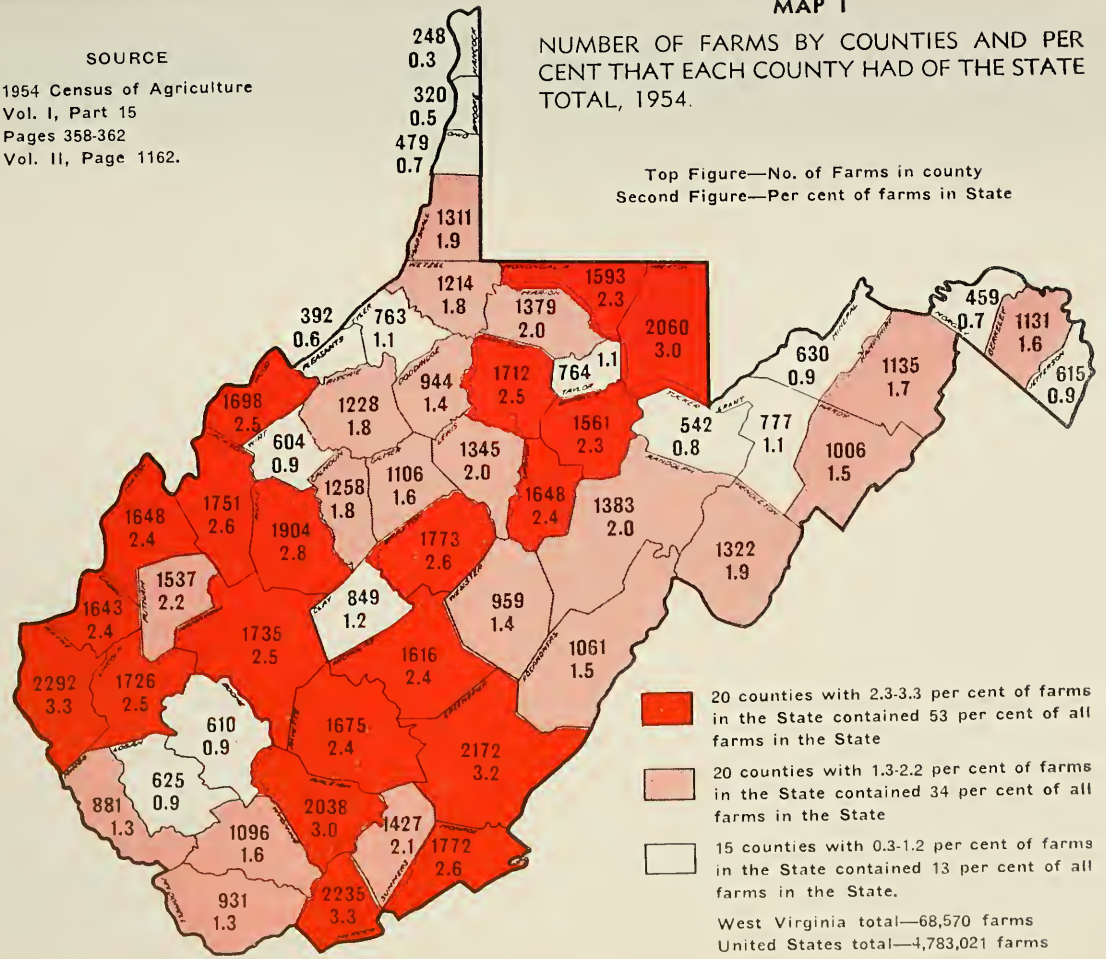
MAP 1

NUMBER OF FARMS BY COUNTIES AND PER CENT THAT EACH COUNTY HAD OF THE STATE TOTAL, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 358-362
Vol. II, Page 1162.

Top Figure—No. of Farms in county
Second Figure—Per cent of farms in State



third group of low-income farms was called residential farms. Each of these farms sold less than $250 of farm products. In West Virginia more than half the farms were in this group. No other state had more than one-third of its farms selling less than $250 of farm products.

IMPORTANCE OF VOLUME OF SALES

In West Virginia, farms with largest volume of sales were relatively few in numbers but extremely important in gross volume of sales. Those with sales of $25,000 or more represented less than 1 per cent of the farms, but accounted for more than 20 per cent of all farm sales in the State (Table 2). About 6 per cent of all farms in the State had sales of $5,000 or more, yet these accounted for nearly 60 per cent of all sales. By contrast, more than 50 per cent of all farms sold less than $250 of farm products and were responsible for only 3 per cent of the total farm sales in the State.

Farms with sales of $25,000 or more were particularly important in crop sales. Even though they accounted for less than 1 per cent of all farms they had nearly half of all crop sales in the State. The amount of income from livestock sales from these farms was relatively less important than from crops. They accounted for 14 per cent of all sales of livestock and livestock products. Farms which had sales of $5,000 or more accounted for 6 per cent of all farms and had 65 per cent of all crop sales and 57 per cent of all livestock sales.

FARMS WITH SALES OF $25,000 OR MORE

Less than 1 per cent of the farms in the State in 1954 had sales of $25,000 or more. More than 50 per cent of these farms were in five counties in the Eastern Panhandle (Map 2). In each of these counties, more than 8 per cent of the farms were in this income group.

Table 2. Relative Importance of Sales of Farm Products, by Economic Class of Farms, West Virginia, 1954*

Economic Class	Value of Farm Products Sold Per Farm	Number of Farms	Per Cent of Sales by Economic Classes		
			All Sales	All Crops	All Livestock
I	$25,000 or more	355	22	47	14
II	10,000 to 24,999	1,148	19	10	22
III	5,000 to 9,999	2,269	18	8	21
IV	2,500 to 4,999	3,162	13	7	14
V	1,200 to 2,499	5,737	11	9	12
VI**	250 to 1,199	8,833	6	6	6
Part-Time**	250 to 1,199	12,039	7	8	7
Residential	Less than 250	35,003	3	3	3
Abnormal (Institutional)		24	1	2	1

*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. II, pp. 1222-1223, and 1165.

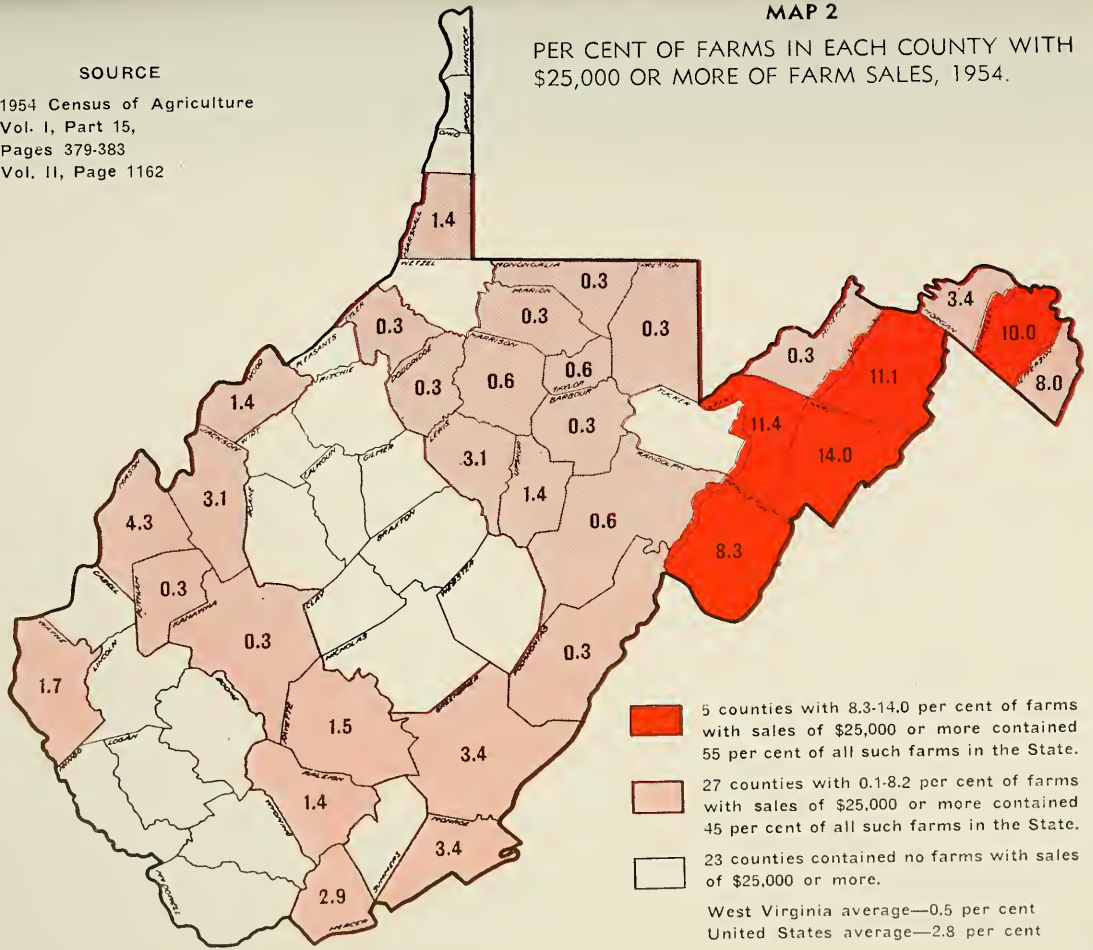
**See footnote to Table 1.

MAP 2

PER CENT OF FARMS IN EACH COUNTY WITH $25,000 OR MORE OF FARM SALES, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15,
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Page 1162



Eight counties, each of which had from 2 to 8 per cent of the farms in the county with sales of $25,000 or more, included 32 per cent of all such farms in the State. Each of the 13 counties having 2 per cent or more of the farms in the county with sales of $25,000 or more had 10 or more of these farms. These counties, representing 24 per cent of the total, contained 86 per cent of all such farms. Another 34 per cent of the counties contained the balance. There were 42 per cent of the counties with no farms having sales of $25,000 or more in 1954.

FARMS WITH SALES OF $5,000 OR MORE

About 6 per cent of all farms in the State had sales of $5,000 or more in 1954. The largest proportion of these farms was in Jefferson County, where 45 per cent had sales of $5,000 or more (Map 3). In the State, nine counties, or 16 per cent of the total, accounted for 54 per cent of these farms. Seven of these counties are in the Eastern Panhandle and two are on the western border.

Nineteen counties had from 3 to 10 per cent of the farms with sales of $5,000 or more. These represent a third of the counties in the State and 35 per cent of the farms in this income group. Another 40 per cent of the counties had only 11 per cent of the farms within this volume of sales. Nine per cent of the counties had no farms with sales as large as $5,000; these counties are all in the southern part of the State.

FARMS WITH SALES OF $1,200 TO $4,999

Thirteen per cent of all farms sold from $1,200 to $4,999 of farm products. The heaviest concentration of these was in the northern part of the State (Map 4). There were 20 counties that had from 18 to 37 per cent of all farms in each county in this income group. These counties accounted for 50 per cent of all farms selling from $1,200 to $4,999 of farm products.

Fourteen counties in the southern and south central portion of the State each had less than 8 per cent of their farms with sales of $1,200 to $4,999. None of these counties had more than 3 per cent of their farms with sales of $5,000 or more. In all 14 counties more than 90 per cent of the farms had sales of less than $1,200.

FARMS WITH SALES UNDER $250

More than 50 per cent of West Virginia's farms sold less than $250 of farm products in 1954. Individually and collectively they contributed little to the total of agricultural products sold in the State.

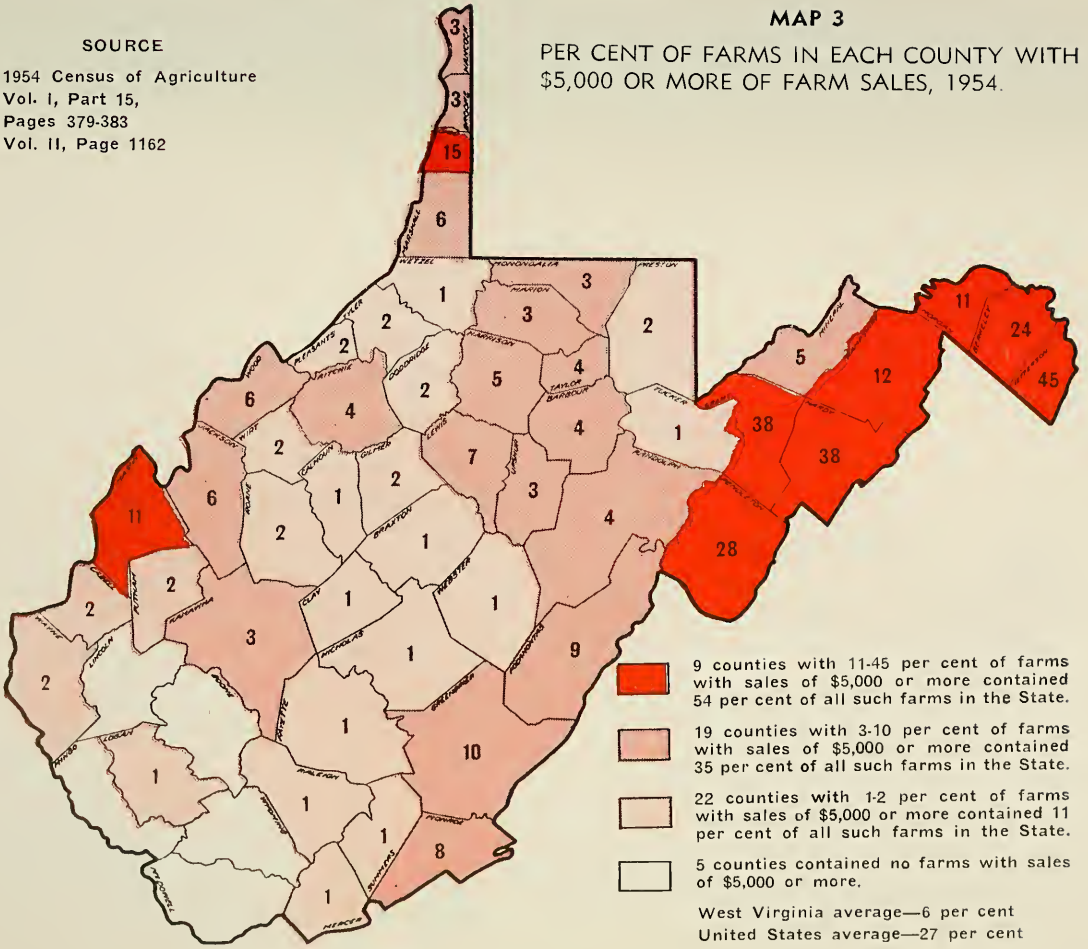
All counties had some farms with sales of less than $250 (Map 5). Twenty had 52 per cent of all such farms. Most of these were in the southern and central part of the State; some were in the northern part.

MAP 3

PER CENT OF FARMS IN EACH COUNTY WITH $5,000 OR MORE OF FARM SALES, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15,
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Page 1162

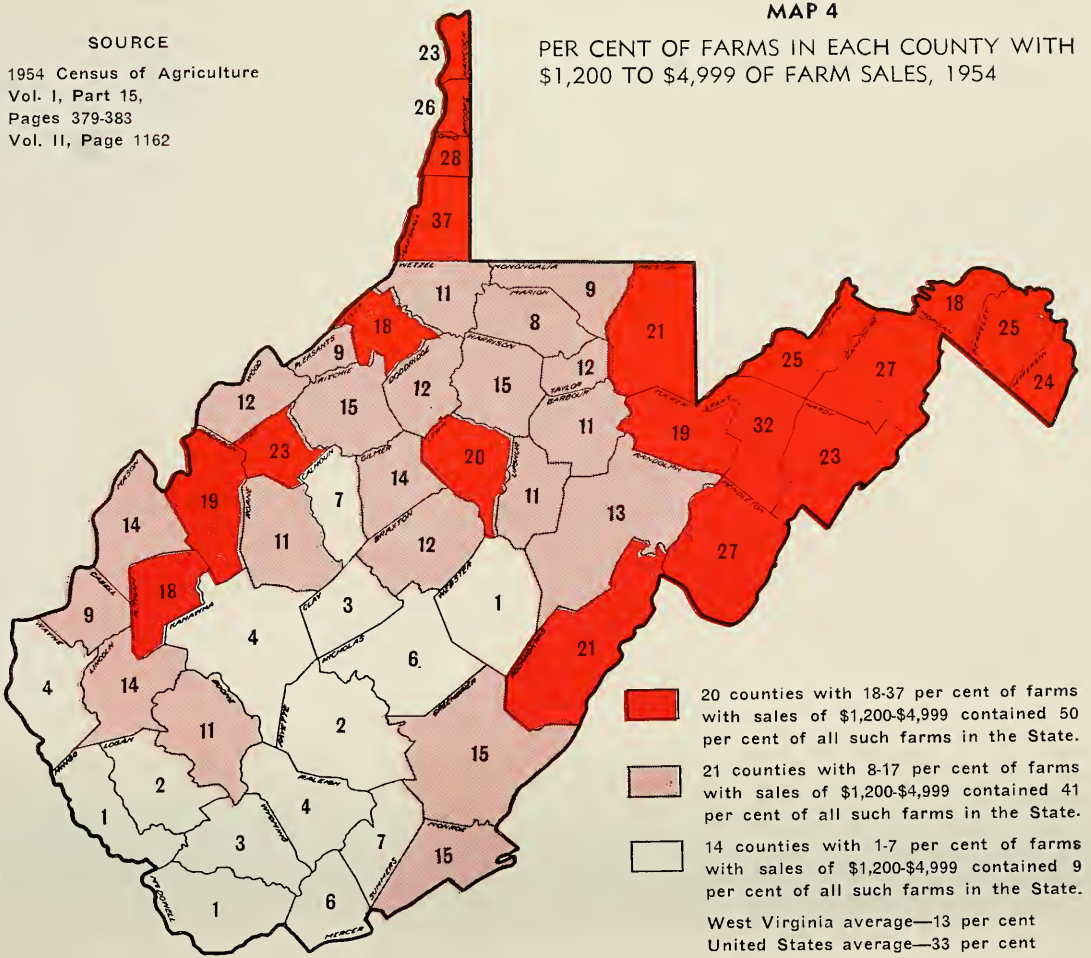


MAP 4

PER CENT OF FARMS IN EACH COUNTY WITH $1,200 TO $4,999 OF FARM SALES, 1954

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15,
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Page 1162

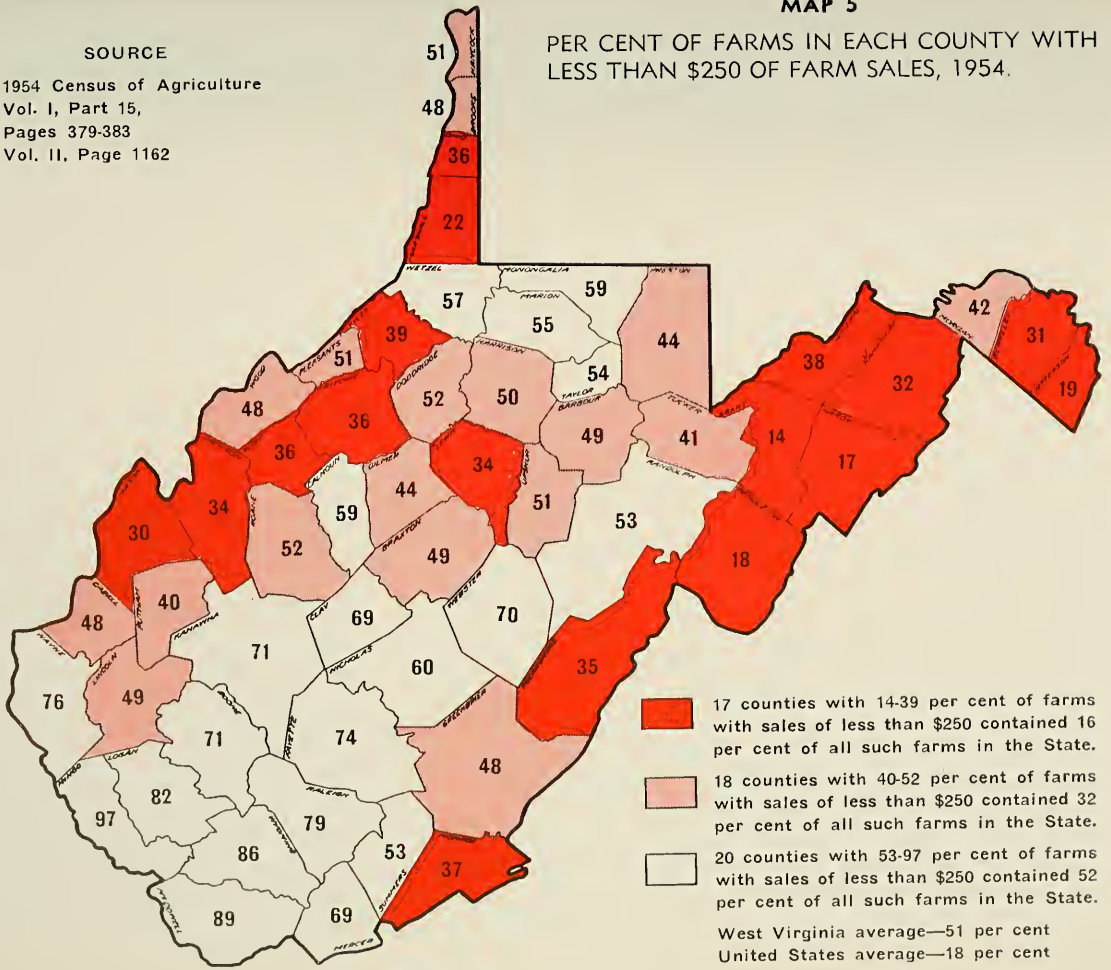


MAP 5

PER CENT OF FARMS IN EACH COUNTY WITH LESS THAN $250 OF FARM SALES, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15,
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Page 1162



Most counties with the smallest proportion of farms with low volume of sales were in the eastern and western parts of the State.

FARM INCOME AFTER PAYING SOME EXPENSES

The Census of Agriculture provides information on selected items of farm expenditures; these items are machine hire, hired labor, purchased feed, gasoline, fertilizer and lime. Even though these are not all the items of farm expenses, they account for many of the important ones. When the costs of these items are deducted from the value of farm sales, a measure of return called "adjusted farm income" is provided.[3]

The adjusted farm income varies considerably among counties (Map 6). Eight counties produced more than 50 per cent of West Virginia's adjusted farm income. Seven of these are located along the eastern border of the State, and the other is on the western border.

Twenty-nine per cent of the counties produced an additional 29 per cent of the adjusted farm income. Most of these counties are located in the northern half of the State. The remaining 20 per cent of the adjusted farm income came from 49 per cent of the counties.

Four counties, located in the southern part of the State, had selected expenditures which were greater than the total value of all farm products sold. In each of these counties less than 2 per cent of the farms were commercial farms selling $5,000 or more of farm products. More than 80 per cent of the farms produced less than $250 of farm products. Probably a large proportion of the farm expenses were incurred in production of goods for home consumption rather than for sale.

NET INCOME

The average realized gross income per farm was the lowest of any state in the Union. The realized gross income includes the cash receipt from farm marketings, government payments, the value of products for home consumption, and the rental value of farm dwellings. Deducting farm production expenses from realized gross income and adjusting for changes in farm inventories gives net income per farm. The average net income per farm in West Virginia was lower than in any other state.[4]

Non-Farm Income

More than 50 per cent of the farm families in West Virginia had off-farm income which exceeded the value of agricultural products sold. No other state had this high a proportion.[5]

[3]U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. I, pt. 15, pp. 376-378, line 3 minus pp. 384-388 lines 31, 35, 45, 49, 52 and 57.

[4]The Farm Income Situation USDA, AMS, FIS-170, Sept. 1958, pp. 13 and 17.

[5]U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. II, pp. 1168-1173.

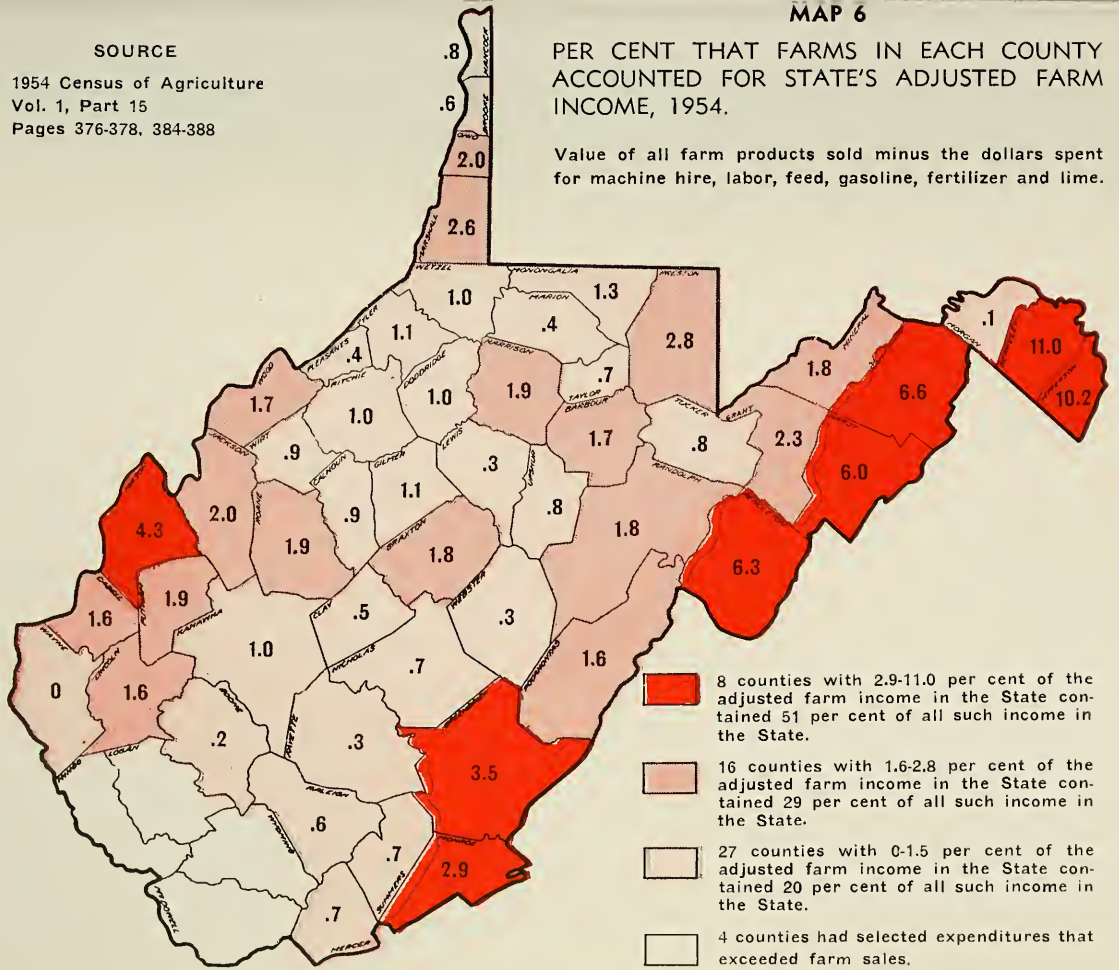
MAP 6

PER CENT THAT FARMS IN EACH COUNTY ACCOUNTED FOR STATE'S ADJUSTED FARM INCOME, 1954.

Value of all farm products sold minus the dollars spent for machine hire, labor, feed, gasoline, fertilizer and lime.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. 1, Part 15
Pages 376-378, 384-388



The proportion of farms with non-farm income exceeding the value of agricultural sales varied among counties (Map 7). Two or more counties may have similar proportions, but due to different causes. For example, one county with a low proportion of farms with non-farm income exceeding farm sales may have a high proportion of farms with large incomes. Another county may also have a small portion because of poor opportunities for off-farm employment.

Twenty counties had nearly half of the farms on which income from non-farm sources exceeded farm sales. These were distributed from the most northern to the most southern county. McDowell, with 81 per cent of such farms, had the largest proportion; and Grant County, with 25 per cent, had the smallest proportion.

DAYS OF WORK OFF-FARM

More than 50 per cent of the farms in West Virginia reported some off-farm work for income (Table 3). Only five states had a higher proportion—Utah, New Hampshire, Washington, Maine, and Oregon. In West Virginia, an average of 43 per cent of all farmers worked off-farm for 100 days or more. Only New Hampshire, Washington, and Utah had slightly higher proportions. West Virginia exceeded the United States in the proportion of farmers working off the farm on all farms selling $1,200 or more farm products.

Off-farm employment was not limited to low-income farms. Some operators in all economic classes of farms engaged in off-farm work. However, the amount of farm sales declined as the proportion of farmers working off farms increased. Almost 30 per cent of West Virginia farmers selling $25,000 or more of farm products had some off-farm employment;

Table 3. Proportion of Farmers Working off-Farm by Economic Class of Farms, West Virginia with United States Comparisons, 1954*

Economic Class	Value of Farm Sales	Per Cent Operators Working Off-Farm		Per Cent Operators Working Off-Farm 100 Days or More	
		W. Va.	U. S.	W. Va.	U. S.
I	$25,000 or over	29	20	16	8
II	10,000 to 24,999	35	27	13	7
III	5,000 to 9,999	41	31	20	10
IV	2,500 to 4,999	47	36	25	16
V	1,200 to 2,499	48	44	31	24
VI & Part-time	250 to 1,199	55	56	39	39
Rural Resident	Under 250	63	65	52	56
All Farms		57	45	43	28

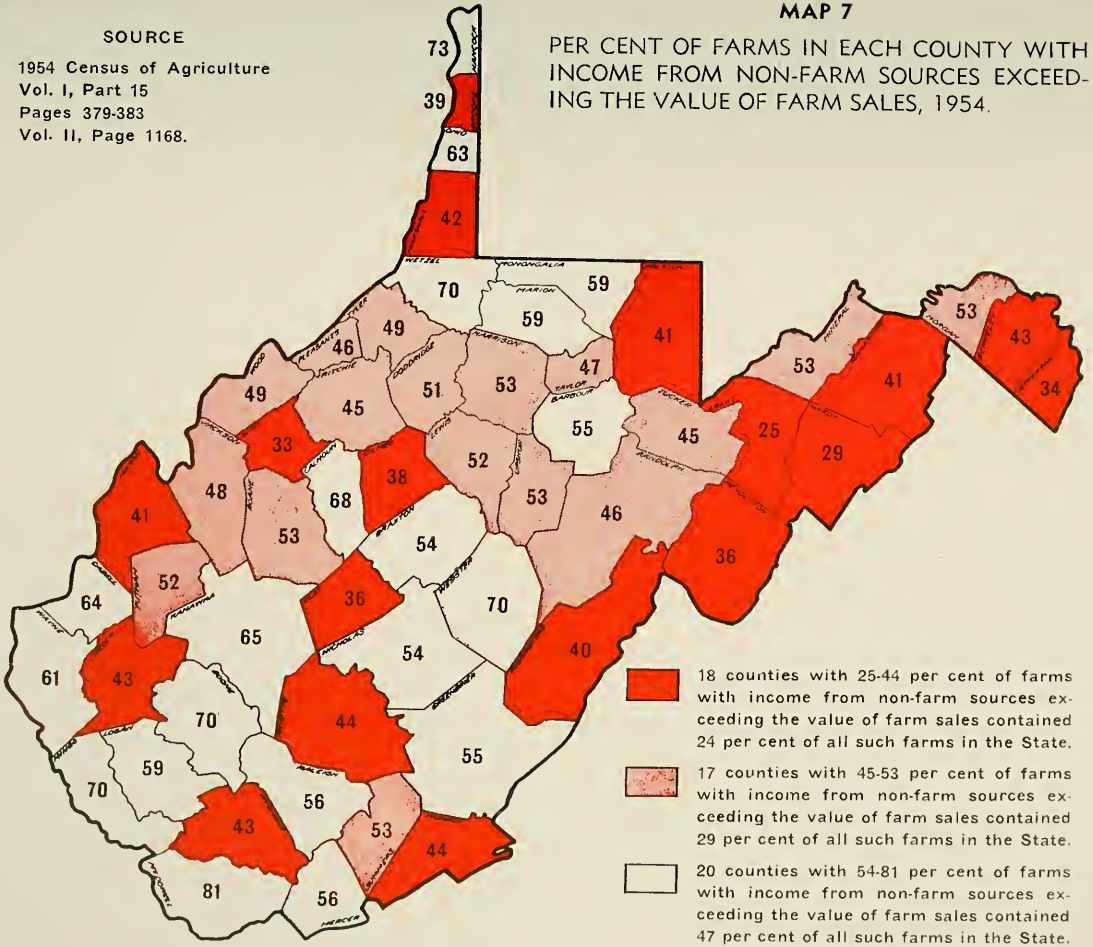
*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. I, Pt. 15, pp. 438-439, and Vol. II, pp. 1168 to 1171.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Page 1168.

MAP 7

PER CENT OF FARMS IN EACH COUNTY WITH INCOME FROM NON-FARM SOURCES EXCEEDING THE VALUE OF FARM SALES, 1954.



18 counties with 25-44 per cent of farms with income from non-farm sources exceeding the value of farm sales contained 24 per cent of all such farms in the State.

17 counties with 45-53 per cent of farms with income from non-farm sources exceeding the value of farm sales contained 29 per cent of all such farms in the State.

20 counties with 54-81 per cent of farms with income from non-farm sources exceeding the value of farm sales contained 47 per cent of all such farms in the State.

16 per cent worked 100 days or more off the farm. These proportions increased with decreased farm income. More than half of all farmers in West Virginia sold less than $250 of farm products. About two-thirds of these worked off-farm. the majority worked away 100 days or more.

FARMERS WORKING 100 DAYS OR MORE OFF-FARM

More than one-fourth of the farmers in every county had 100 days or more of work off-farm (Map 8). In 12 counties 50 per cent or more of the farmers worked away at least 100 days. These counties extended from the Northern Panhandle to the southern border. None of the counties on the eastern border had so high a proportion. Jefferson County with 26 per cent, had the smallest percentage of farmers working off-farm 100 days or more. Hancock had the largest percentage, with more than three-fourths of the farmers working away from the farm 100 days or more.

There was quite a variation among counties in the proportion of farmers working off the farm. These counties with high proportions of farmers working 100 days or more off the farm tended to be in areas with greater industrial and mining opportunities. There were two conditions which probably contributed to a low proportion of farmers working 100 days or more off-farm. Jefferson, Grant, Hardy, and Pendleton counties had low percentages of farmers working off-farms; this was probably influenced by the high proportion of commercial farms. Tucker, Gilmer, and Braxton counties also had low proportions. However, this was probably influenced by the lack of opportunity for off-farm employment.

CHANGES IN AMOUNT OF OFF-FARM WORK

Off-farm work increased in importance from 1930 to 1954 (Table 4). In 1930, 47 per cent of the operators had some work off-farm. By 1954 this had increased to 57 per cent. However, the most important change came about in the number of days of off-farm work. In 1930, 14 per cent

Table 4. Proportion of Farmers by Number of Days of Work Off-Farm, West Virginia, 1930-1954*

Days Worked Off-Farm	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1954
			Per cent of Farmers			
1 to 49	13	14	6	4	7	8
50 to 99	8	10	6	3	6	6
100 to 199	12	11	16	7	15	11
200 and over	14	10	18	33	28	32
1 or more	47	45	46	47	56	57

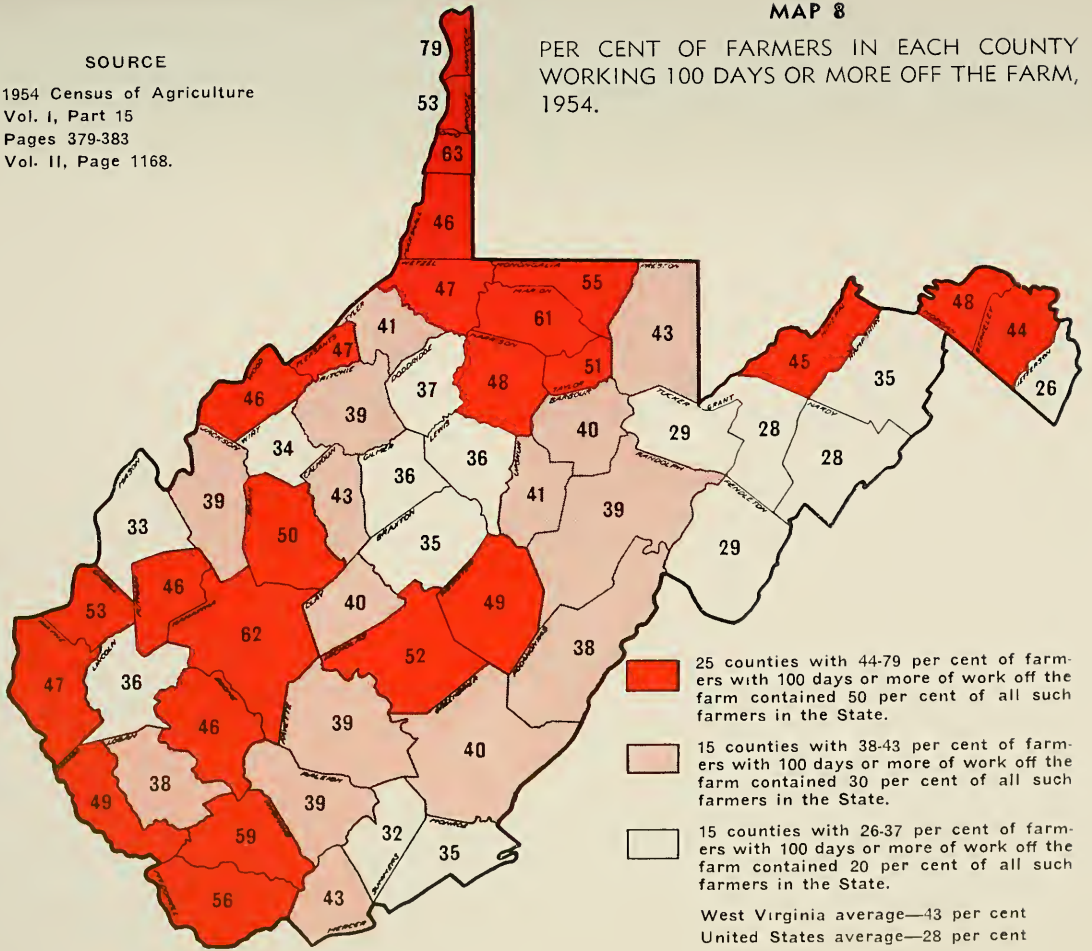
*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. 1, Pt. 15, pp. 328.

MAP 8

PER CENT OF FARMERS IN EACH COUNTY WORKING 100 DAYS OR MORE OFF THE FARM, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Page 1168.



25 counties with 44-79 per cent of farmers with 100 days or more of work off the farm contained 50 per cent of all such farmers in the State.

15 counties with 38-43 per cent of farmers with 100 days or more of work off the farm contained 30 per cent of all such farmers in the State.

15 counties with 26-37 per cent of farmers with 100 days or more of work off the farm contained 20 per cent of all such farmers in the State.

West Virginia average—43 per cent
United States average—28 per cent

of the operators worked 200 days or more off-farm. By 1954, this proportion was increased to 32 per cent.

Low-Income Farmers

Many farmers in West Virginia have low incomes. The number with low incomes is influenced by the classification that is used. In this comparison, farmers were considered to have low incomes if the sale value of their farm products was less than $1,200, if the farmers worked off the farm less than 100 days, and if the income from off-farm work was less than the value of farm sales.[6] On this basis, 43 per cent of West Virginia farmers had low incomes. By comparison, the average in the United States was 5 per cent.

The distribution of low-income farms varied considerably among counties (Map 9). None was in Hancock County; Raleigh County had 1,191. Summers had the largest proportion, with 62 per cent of its farms classified as low-income farms.

Twelve of the thirteen counties with less than 33 per cent of their farms in this low-income group were located in the two panhandles. One-fourth of the counties had 50 per cent or more of their farms with low incomes. These counties had 38 per cent of all the low-income farms in the State. Twenty-one counties contained more than 50 per cent of all these low-income farms.

Sources of Farm Income

The gross value of agricultural production in West Virginia was about $150 million in 1957 (Table 5). Seventy-three per cent of this came from sales. Products produced on the farm and used in the home accounted for 26 per cent, and government payments provided the balance.

LIVESTOCK INCOME

Livestock and livestock products represent the major portion of the income—80 per cent of the total cash receipts and 74 per cent of the value of receipts plus produce used in the home.

Livestock sales came from a number of sources. Poultry and poultry products provided 28 per cent of all farm sales. Within the poultry group, chicken broilers were most important and eggs were second.

[6] U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. I, pt. 15, pp. 379-384. Low-income farms are Class VI (line 15), part-time farms (line 19) and rural resident farms (line 21) minus non-commercial farmers who worked 100 days or more off-farm. Non-commercial farms were determined by subtracting from the total number of farmers working 100 days or more off-farm (line 86), the number of commercial farmers working 100 days or more off-farm (U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1950, Vol. 1, pt. 15, pp. 422-430, line 14).

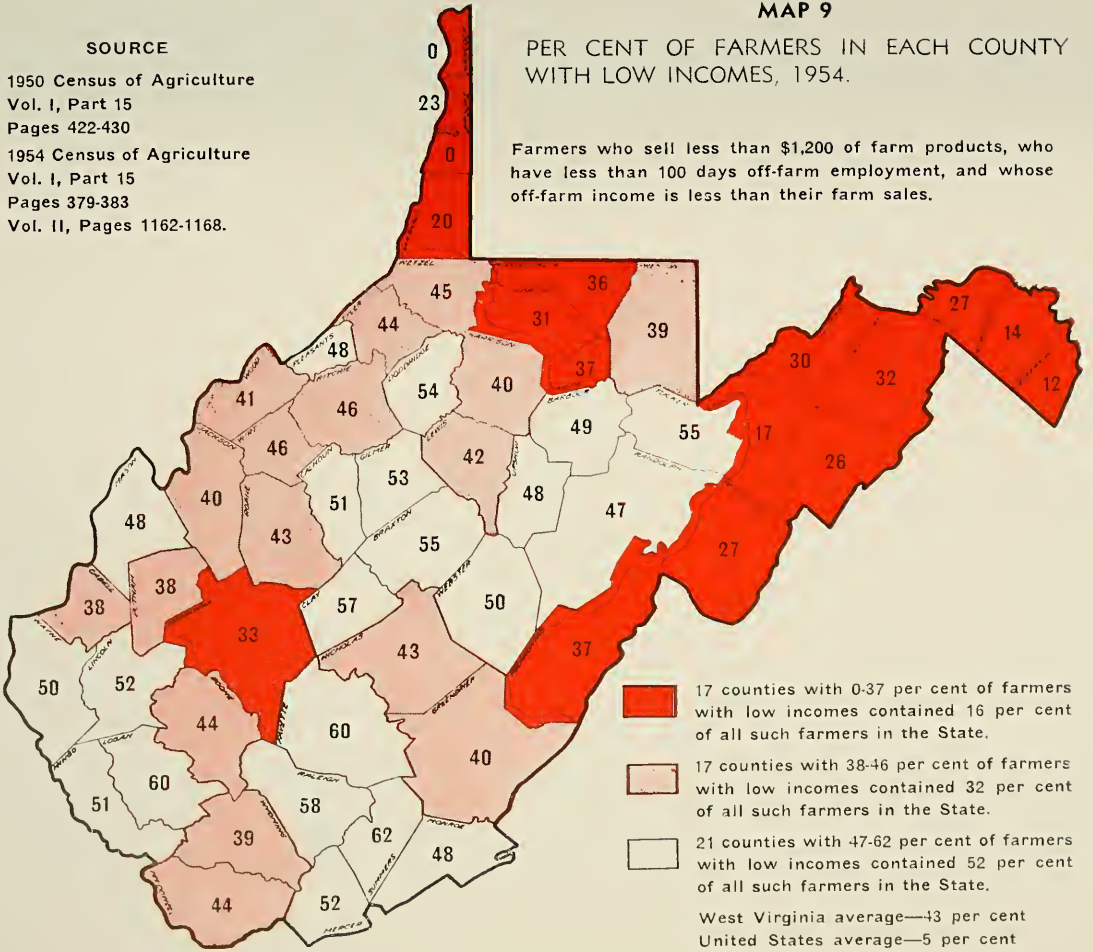
MAP 9

PER CENT OF FARMERS IN EACH COUNTY WITH LOW INCOMES, 1954.

Farmers who sell less than $1,200 of farm products, who have less than 100 days off-farm employment, and whose off-farm income is less than their farm sales.

SOURCE

1950 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 422-430
1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 379-383
Vol. II, Pages 1162-1168.



17 counties with 0-37 per cent of farmers with low incomes contained 16 per cent of all such farmers in the State.

17 counties with 38-46 per cent of farmers with low incomes contained 32 per cent of all such farmers in the State.

21 counties with 47-62 per cent of farmers with low incomes contained 52 per cent of all such farmers in the State.

West Virginia average—43 per cent
United States average—5 per cent

Table 5. Agricultural Income By Sources to all Farmers, 1957*

Sources of Income	Income in 1000 Dollars		Per Cent of Cash Receipts		Per Cent of Total Value
Dairy products	24,698		22.3		
Dairy cattle and calves**	7,051		6.4		
Other cattle and calves**	16,453		14.9		
Hogs	3,700		3.3		
Sheep and lambs	3,394		3.1		
Wool	947		.9		
Broilers	15,904		14.4		
Eggs	9,904		9.0		
Turkeys	4,773		4.3		
Chickens	497		.4		
Other livestock	853		.8		
All livestock and livestock products		88,174		79.8	58.1
Tobacco	1,950		1.8		
Corn	1,545		1.4		
Hay	1,447		1.3		
Wheat	583		.5		
Other field crops	1,271		1.2		
Apples	7,414		6.7		
Peaches	924		.8		
Other fruits and nuts	356		.3		
Farm woodlot products	3,392		3.1		
Greenhouse and nursery	3,463		3.1		
All Crops		22,345		20.2	14.7
Total cash receipts from marketing	110,519		100.0		72.8
Livestock and products used at home	23,386				15.4
Crops used at home	15,241				10.1
Total value of home consumption		38,627			
Government payments	2,619				1.7
Total value of agricultural production	151,765				100.0

*_The Farm Income Situation_, USDA, AMS, FIS-170, Sept. 1958, pp. 34, 52 and 61.

**Cash receipts from the sale of cattle and calves as reported in the _Farm Income Situation_ were $23,504,000. An estimated 30 per cent of the cattle and calves sold in West Virginia are dairy or predominately of dairy breeding. See Hutson, W. S., _Livestock Marketing Practices of West Virginia Farmers_, W. Va. Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 384, Dec. 1955, p. 19.

Dairy cattle and dairy products accounted for 29 per cent of the sales. When compared with individual classes of livestock and livestock products, dairy products represented the most important single source of cash sales. Beef cattle sales were about 15 per cent of the cash sales. Sheep and hogs each accounted for about 4 per cent of the cash sales.

CROP INCOME

The primary use of crops was for livestock feed. Consequently, the value of crop sales is relatively low. The crop with the largest proportion of sales in 1957 was apples, representing about 7 per cent of all farm sales. Farm woodlot products accounted for 3 per cent. The sales from greenhouses and nurseries accounted for another 3 per cent.

Data regarding gross sales are available on a county basis from the 1954 Census of Agriculture. Even though they are given in less detail

for commodities, there is sufficient data to classify counties on the basis of their principal source of sales.

MAJOR SOURCES OF INCOME

Leading types of agricultural production vary among counties, but areas of concentration of specific types exist (Map 10). In this classification poultry includes the sale of all poultry and poultry products. Dairy represents only the sale of milk and cream. Livestock comprises dairy animals, beef, sheep, hogs, horses and mules. Fruit comprises both small and large fruits. Field crops represent all crops except vegetables and potatoes. Horticulture specialities include nursery sales.

Livestock and dairy sales provided the highest proportion of gross sales of farm products in 67 per cent of the counties. Livestock sales alone were the leading source in 51 per cent of the counties. These counties are located in an area running generally from the northwestern border across to the southeastern border of the State. Dairy products were most important in nine counties. Six of these are located on the western border.

Poultry sales ranked first or second in 42 per cent of the counties. They were the leading source of sales in eight counties, five of which are located in the Eastern Panhandle, and three in the southern part of the State.

Fruit production, primarily apples and peaches, was in the first or second place in 15 per cent of the counties. It led in five counties. Three are in the Eastern Panhandle, and the other two are widely scattered.

Farm Land and Its Relation to Income

Farm sales were closely related to the size of farm (Table 6). Farms with sales of less than $250 averaged 12 acres of cropland, those with sales of $2,500 to $5,000 averaged 64 acres, and farms with sales of $25,000 and more averaged 165 acres in cropland. Open permanent pasture acreages in these three income groups averaged 12, 89, and 197 respectively. Their total woodland averaged 26, 97, and 208 acres.

Not only did the farms with largest incomes have largest acreages, but they also had largest proportions of the acreage in cropland. The relative increase was even greater in the proportion of cropland harvested for crops. Consequently, the opposite situation occurred with cropland pastured and cropland not harvested.

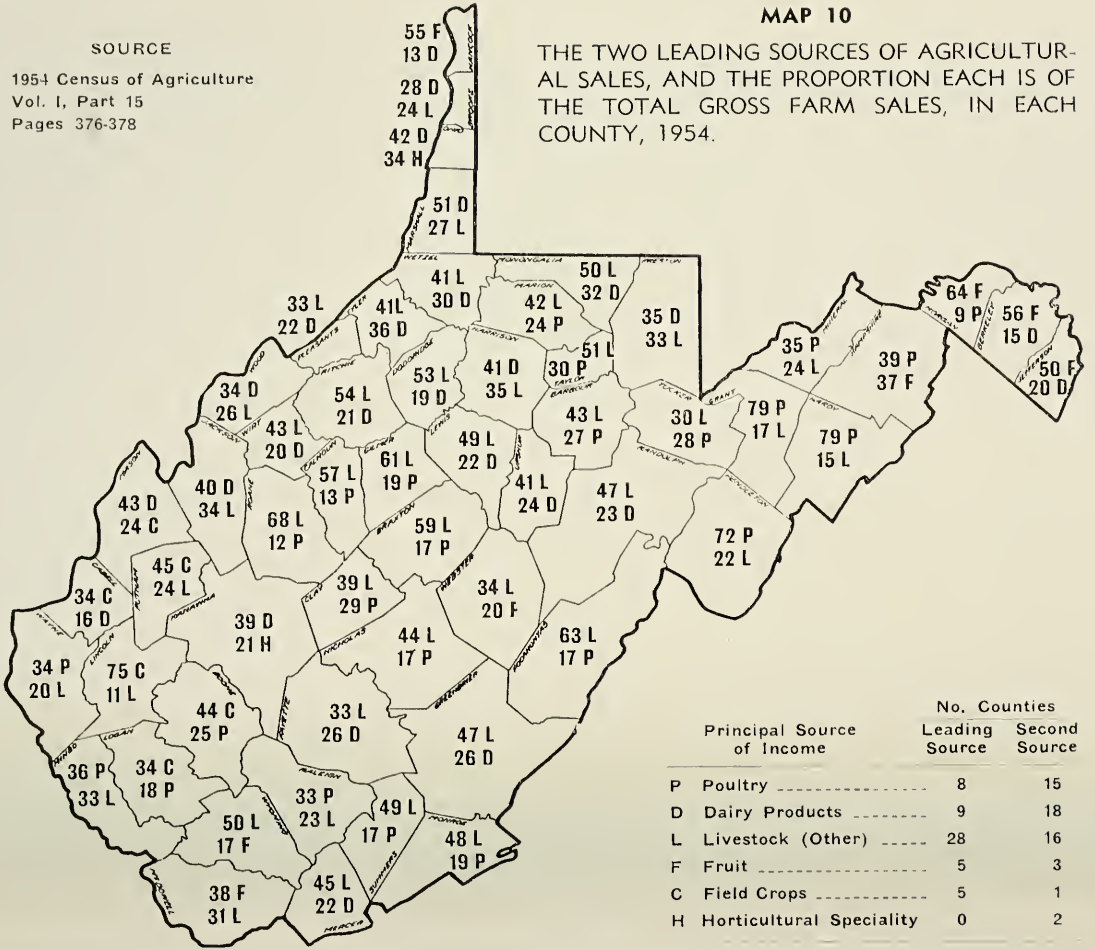
Farmers in all economic classes pastured about half to 60 per cent of their farm acreage. Cropland pasture accounted for less than 10 per cent of the land in each economic class. The proportion of the farms

MAP 10

THE TWO LEADING SOURCES OF AGRICULTURAL SALES, AND THE PROPORTION EACH IS OF THE TOTAL GROSS FARM SALES, IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 376-378



Principal Source of Income		No. Counties Leading Source	Second Source
P	Poultry	8	15
D	Dairy Products	9	18
L	Livestock (Other)	28	16
F	Fruit	5	3
C	Field Crops	5	1
H	Horticultural Speciality	0	2

Table 6. Proportion of Land in Major Land Uses By Economic Class of Farms, West Virginia, 1954.*

Land Use	Economic Class of Farms							
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI**	Part-Time**	Rural Resident
				Per Cent of Land				
Total Acres	585	399	289	256	181	125	102	52
Cropland harvested	21	19	19	17	16	15	15	9
Cropland not harvested	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	6
Cropland pasture	5	6	8	7	7	7	8	8
Total cropland	28	26	28	25	25	25	25	23
Open permanent pasture	33	35	38	34	34	31	29	23
Woodland pastured	12	18	14	17	17	20	20	17
Total pastured	50	59	60	58	58	58	57	48
Woodland not pastured	24	19	18	21	22	22	23	33
Total woodland	36	37	32	38	39	42	43	50
Other land	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	4

*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. I. pt. 15, pp. 430-431.
**Farms with sales of $250 to $1,199 were Class VI provided the operator had less than 100 days of off-farm work and income of the operator and members of his family from non-farm sources was less than the value of all farm products sold; the other farms in this income group were classified as part-time.

in woodland pasture was about two to three times greater than the proportion in cropland pasture for each economic class of farms. Except on farms with the lowest incomes, the acreage in open permanent pasture was larger than the combined acreage of cropland and woodland pasture.

Farms with sales of $1,200 or more had woodland and accounted for 32 to 40 per cent of the acreage. Farms with lower incomes had a larger proportion of woodland.

AMOUNT OF CROPLAND

In the United States, 40 per cent of the farm land was classified as cropland, but in West Virginia only 25 per cent of the farm land was so designated (Map 11). Only six states had a smaller proportion of the farm acreage in cropland than West Virginia. Other than Florida the states were western mountain states. They were Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Although 25 per cent of the farm land in West Virginia was classified as cropland, only 15 per cent was in cropland harvested.[7] This includes

[7]U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculaure, 1954, Vol. II. p. 40.

land from which crops were harvested; land from which hay was cut; and acreages in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Seven per cent of the farm acreage was in cropland pasture. The other 3 per cent was in cropland not used for production. This was idle land, land in soil improvement crops only, land on which crops failed, and land seeded for harvest the following year.

Twenty counties, or 36 per cent of the total, contained more than half the farm acreage classified as cropland. These counties are located in many parts of the State. Counties containing the smallest proportion of the State's total cropland are also scattered about the State.

Jefferson County, with 64 per cent of its farm acreage in cropland, had the highest proportion, and Pendleton County, with 11 per cent, had the smallest proportion.

AMOUNT OF PASTURE LAND

Pasture land in West Virginia accounted for 55 per cent of the farm land.[8] This percentage was practically the same as the United States average. The proportion of the acreage in cropland pasture was slightly higher in West Virginia than it was in the Nation. The proportion of woodland pastured was 17 per cent compared with the United States average of 10 per cent of all land in farms. Only nine states had a higher proportion of pastured woodland than West Virginia. In contrast, the proportion of land in open permanent pasture in West Virginia was below the national average, being 31 per cent in West Virginia and 40 per cent for the Nation. No state adjacent to or east of the Mississippi River had so high a proportion of land in open permanent pasture as did West Virginia. This pasture, which includes pastured rough and brush land and any other pasture not woodland or cropland, accounted for most of the land pastured in the State.

In West Virginia, one-fourth of the counties had half of the acreage in permanent pasture (Map 12). Most of these counties are in the eastern and the north central parts of the State. Farms with the smallest proportion of the State's permanent pasture land are in the Northern Panhandle, southwestern and south central parts of the State.

Harrison County, with 58 per cent of all farm land in open permanent pasture, had the highest proportion of farm land pastured. Mingo and McDowell counties had the least, 1 per cent each.

AMOUNT OF WOODLAND

In the United States, 17 per cent of the farm land was classified as woodland, but in West Virginia 41 per cent of the farm land was woodland.

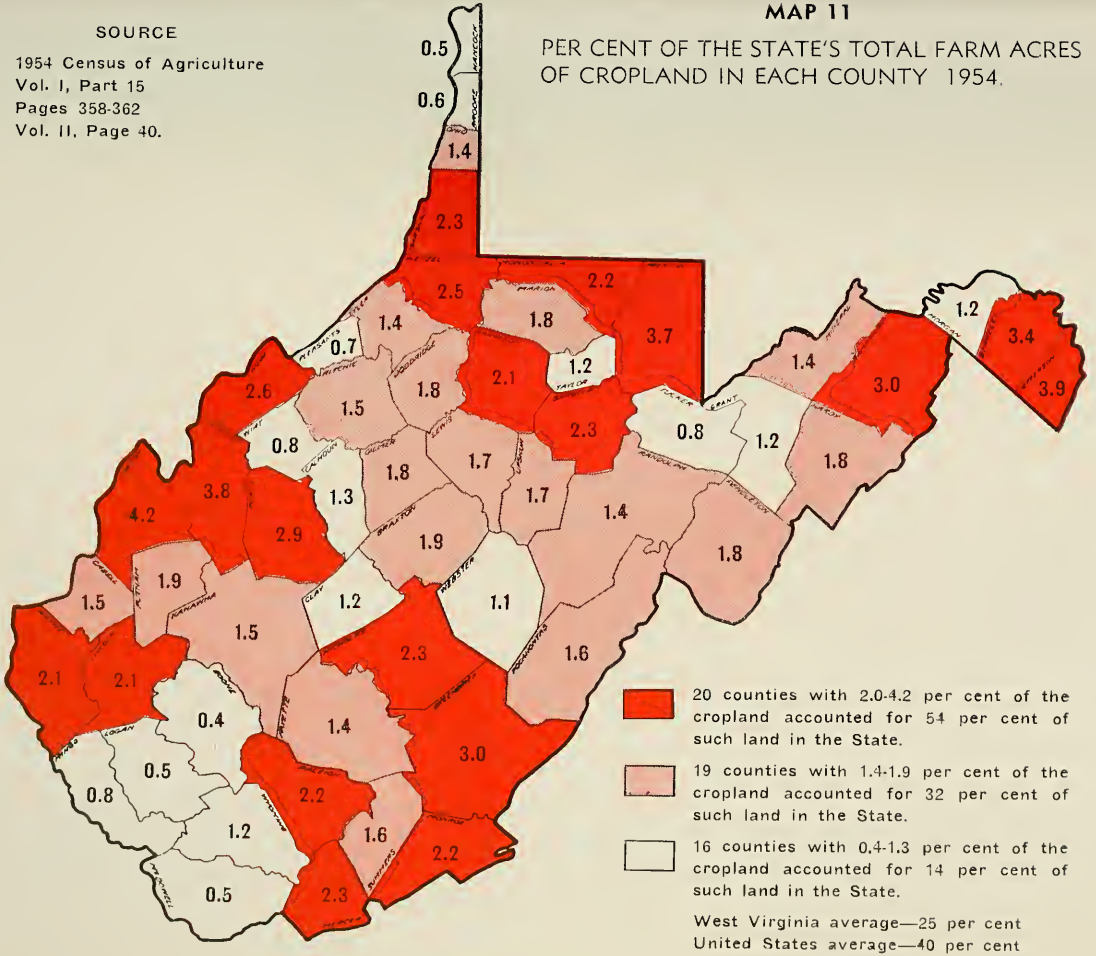
[8] *Ibid.*

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 358-362
Vol. II, Page 40.

MAP 11

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL FARM ACRES OF CROPLAND IN EACH COUNTY 1954.

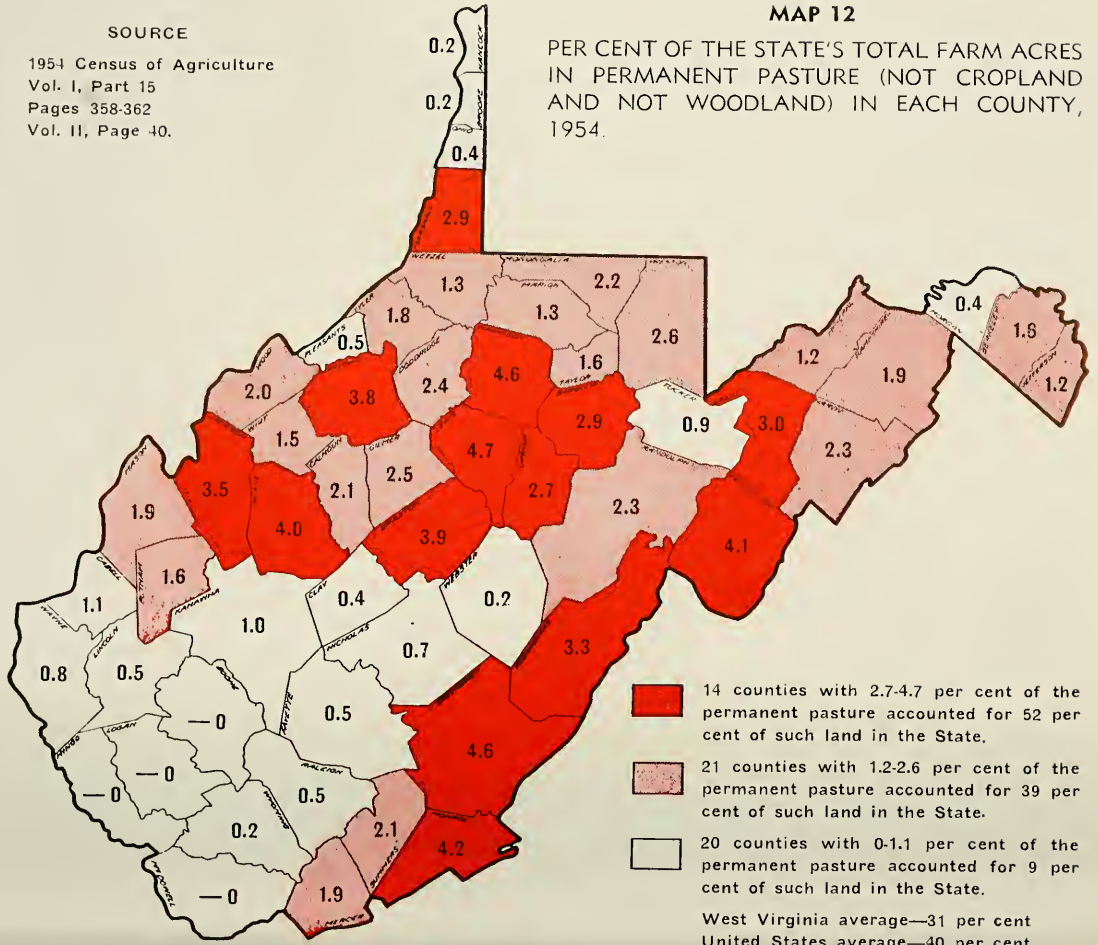


SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 358-362
Vol. II, Page 40.

MAP 12

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL FARM ACRES IN PERMANENT PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND) IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.



In West Virginia, 29 per cent of the counties contained half of the woodland acreage (Map 13). More than half of this group of counties are in eastern West Virginia.

Jefferson County, with 7 per cent, had the lowest proportion of farm land in woods. By contrast, this county had the largest proportion of the farm acreage in cropland. Boone County, with 75 per cent, had the largest proportion of the farm land in woods.

Livestock Sales and Their Relation to Income

The income from the sales of livestock, including farm animals and poultry and their products, is very important to West Virginia farmers. On farms with sales of all farm products of $25,000 or more, the income from this source was about 50 per cent of all sales (Table 7). On farms with lower volume of sales, the relative importance of livestock income was greater. Those farms with gross sales of $1,200 to $25,000 had income from livestock sources which represented 80 to 90 per cent of their farm income.

The income from poultry and poultry products was more important than the income from other livestock on farms with sales of $25,000 or more. These farms averaged about $19,000 of income from poultry and poultry products (Table 8). This was 69 per cent of all their livestock sales. On these large farms, only 11 per cent of the sales came from dairy products. The remaining 20 per cent came from all other livestock sources.

The income from the sale of farm animals such as cattle, hogs, and sheep was more important than the combined income from poultry, poultry products, and dairy products on farms with a small volume of sales. Income from the sale of these animals was 69 per cent of all livestock income on part-time and residential farms. Even though these animals represented the largest proportion of sales, the value of these was small, averaging $291 on part-time farms and only $35 on residential farms.

The relative importance of poultry and poultry products was associated with the volume of farm sales. Poultry was relatively more important on farms with a large volume of sales than on farms with a small volume of sales. On farms with gross sales of $25,000 or more, poultry sales represented 69 per cent of all livestock income. Those farms with sales of $5,000 to $10,000 had poultry sales equal to a third of all livestock sales. On farms with gross sales under $250, poultry income was only 21 per cent of all livestock income.

MAP 13

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL FARM ACRES OF WOODLAND IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 358-362
Vol. II, Page 40.

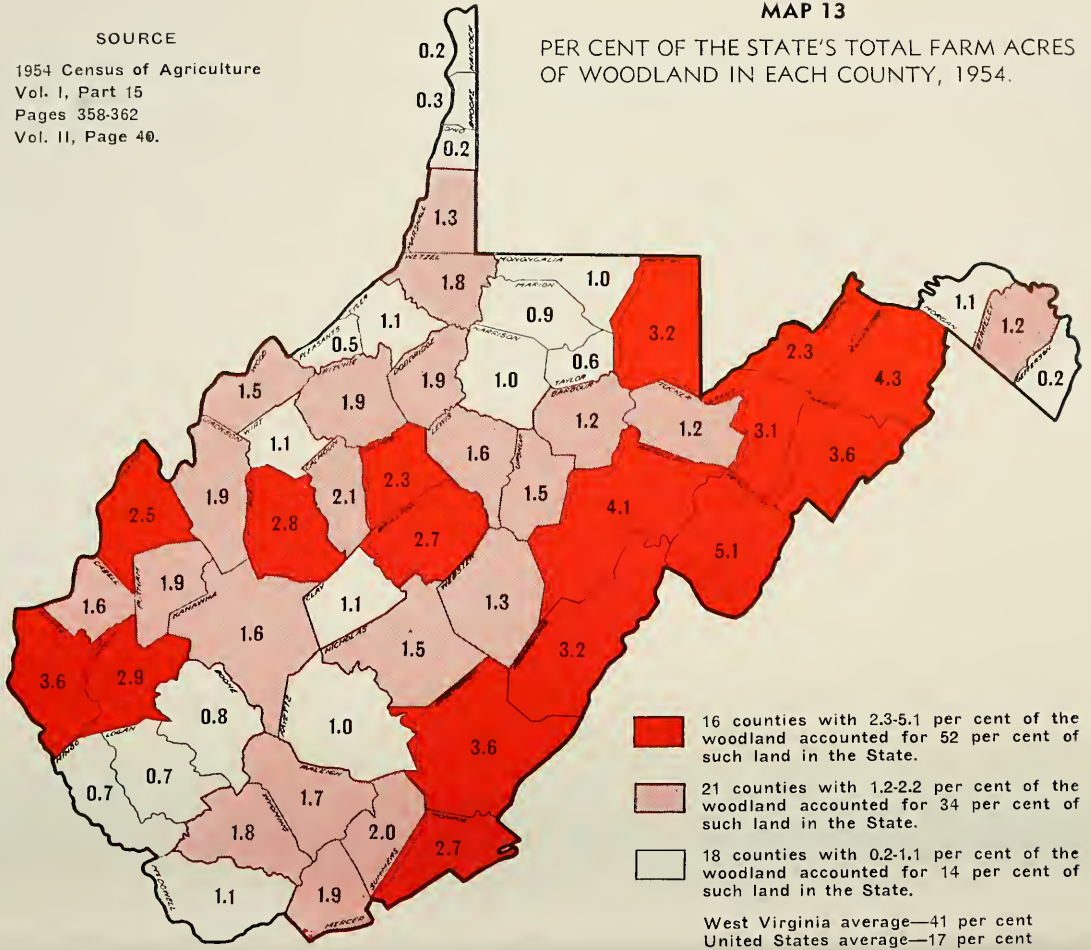


Table 7. Distribution of Sales of Livestock and Livestock Products, By Economic Classes, West Virginia, 1954.*

Economic Class	Value of All Sales Per Farm	Per Cent All Livestock Sales Are of All Sales	Per Cent of All Livestock Sales		
			Poultry & Poultry Products	Dairy Products	Other Livestock & Products
I	$25,000 or more	49	69	11	20
II	10,000 to 24,999	87	42	32	26
III	5,000 to 9,999	88	35	34	31
IV	2,500 to 4,999	85	24	32	44
V	1,200 to 2,499	80	20	20	60
VI**	250 to 1,199	75	18	18	64
Part-Time**	250 to 1,199	75	18	13	69
Residential	Less than 250	73	21	10	69

*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. II, p. 1231.
**See footnote to Table 1.

Table 8. Value of Livestock and Livestock Products Sold Per Farm, By Economic Class of Farms, West Virginia, 1954.*

Economic Class	Value of All Sales Per Farm	Livestock and Livestock Product Sales Per Farm			
		Total Sales	Poultry & Poultry Products	Dairy Products	Other Livestock & Products
		Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
I	$25,000 or more	27,248	18,938	3,013	5,297
II	10,000 to 24,999	13,069	5,497	4,165	3,407
III	5,000 to 9,999	6,196	2,155	2,118	1,923
IV	2,500 to 4,999	3,057	737	976	1,344
V	1,200 to 2,499	1,381	282	273	826
VI**	250 to 1,199	487	88	87	312
Part-Time**	250 to 1,199	421	74	56	291
Residential	Less than 250	51	11	5	35

*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. II, pp. 1165 and 1223.
**See footnote to Table 1.

Cattle, hog and sheep sales were about the reverse of the relationship between poultry sales and all farm sales. Cattle, hog and sheep sales were relatively more important on farms with a small volume of sales and relatively less important on farms with a large volume of sales. Farms with gross sales under $250 had 69 per cent of all livestock sales from these animals. On farms with sales of $25,000 or more, these animals accounted for only 20 per cent of all livestock sales.

Sales of dairy products were relatively more important on farms with a medium volume of sales than on those with a large or small volume of sales. On farms with sales under $250 and on those with sales over $25,000, dairy products represented about 10 per cent of all sales. The importance of dairy product sales increased from these extremes. Those farms having 34 per cent all livestock sales from dairy products had gross sales of $5,000 up to $10,000.

DAIRY

Dairying is the leading source of agricultural income in West Virginia (see Table 5). About 29 per cent of all agricultural sales in 1957 came from the dairy business. This included 22 per cent from dairy products and an estimated 7 per cent from dairy animals.

In the State, 77 per cent of all farmers kept one or more milk cows (Map 14). However, only 10 per cent of the farmers sold whole milk.

Dairying is concentrated in several areas of the State. Fifty per cent of the whole milk sold was produced in 13 per cent or seven counties. Two of these are adjacent, and the rest are widely scattered. Another 13 per cent of the counties produced 22 per cent of the whole milk sold, and only two of these are adjacent. Another 22 per cent of the counties each had whole milk sales that were from 1 to 2 per cent of the State total. These too are widely scattered. The remaining 52 per cent of the counties had cumulative milk sales of only 12 per cent of the State total.

Jefferson was the leading county in milk sales and was second in importance in the proportion of farmers selling whole milk. It had 10 per cent of all milk sales in the State; and 46 per cent of the farmers in the county sold milk. Marshall County had the largest proportion of dairymen, with 51 per cent selling whole milk. Five counties had 20 to 30 per cent of the farmers in each county selling whole milk. Four of these—Berkeley, Harrison, Preston, and Ohio—were leading producers. The fifth was Tucker, but the total sales from that county were relatively low.

BEEF

Sales of beef cattle and calves accounted for an estimated 15 per cent of the cash farm receipts in 1957 (see Table 5). The number of beef cows, including all cows other than milk cows, was 40 per cent of all cows that had calved (Map 15).

The principal areas of beef production were not as widely scattered as were areas of dairy production. About a fourth of the counties had more than 50 per cent of the beef cows. Most of these counties are near the eastern part of the State; the others are in the central to western part. An additional 36 per cent of the counties had 37 per cent of the beef cows. Most of these are in the north central part of the State or adjacent to counties with the largest proportion of beef cows. The remaining 38 per cent of the counties contributed little to the beef cattle industry; they had only 9 per cent of the beef cows. The largest proportion of these counties are in the Northern Panhandle and the southwestern part of the State.

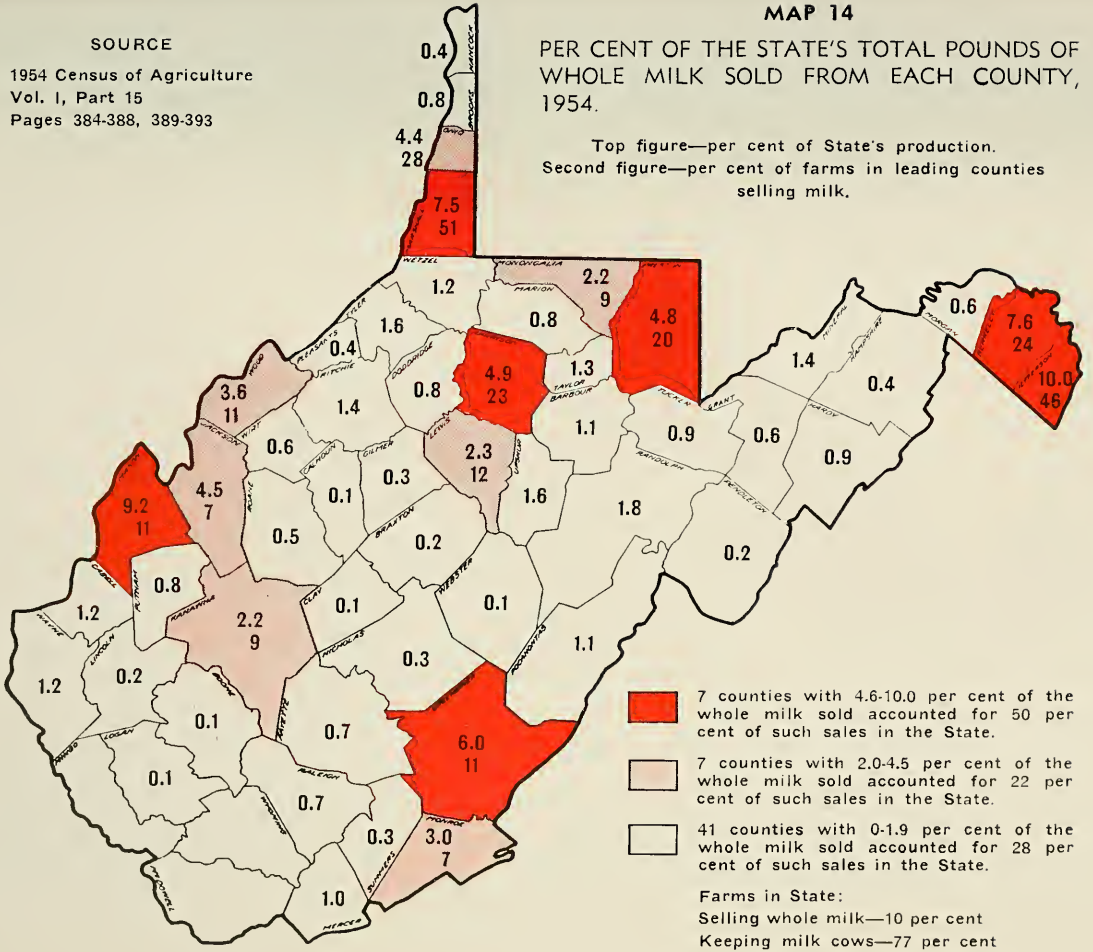
SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 384-388, 389-393

MAP 14

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL POUNDS OF WHOLE MILK SOLD FROM EACH COUNTY, 1954.

Top figure—per cent of State's production.
Second figure—per cent of farms in leading counties selling milk.



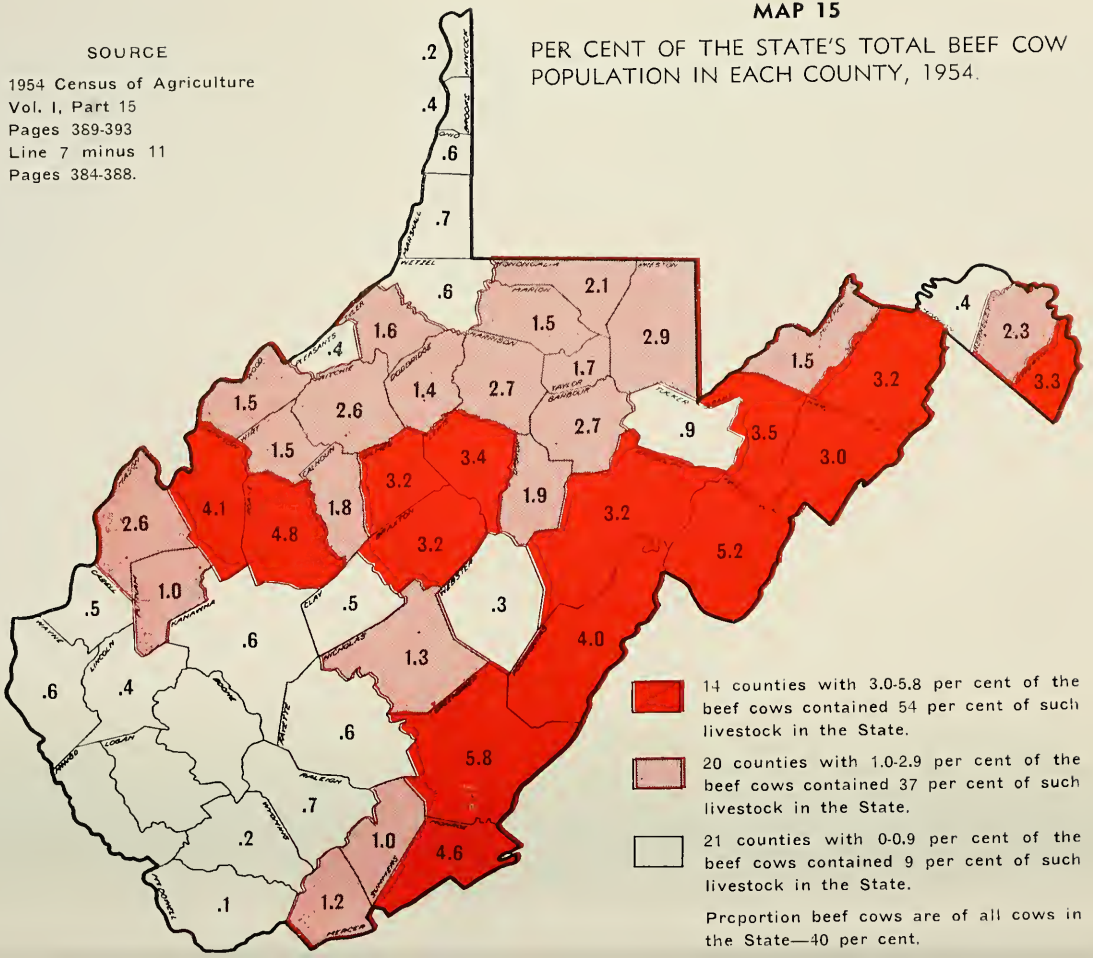
Farms in State:
Selling whole milk—10 per cent
Keeping milk cows—77 per cent

MAP 15

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL BEEF COW POPULATION IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 389-393
Line 7 minus 11
Pages 384-388.



Greenbrier County contained the largest proportion of beef cows in the State. It has 3.2 per cent of all farms in the State and 5.8 per cent of the beef cows. Pendleton was second in importance, with 5.2 per cent of all beef cows. It had a smaller proportion of the farms in the State; consequently, the number of beef cows per farm in the county was greater than in Greenbrier.

SHEEP

Income from the sheep industry represented about 4 per cent of the cash receipts from all farm marketings (see Table 5). This included 3 per cent from the sale of sheep and lambs and 1 per cent from the sale of wool. Of all farmers in the State, about 14 per cent kept ewes (Map 16).

Sheep production is more concentrated than beef production. About 50 per cent of the ewes were located in 7 counties. All these counties were among the leading counties in beef production. However, it took nearly twice as many of the leading beef counties to account for 50 per cent of the beef cows.

The 13 per cent of the counties that accounted for about half the ewes are all joining counties in the Appalachian Valley and Ridge section along the eastern part of the State. Another 15 per cent of the counties, each of which account for 2 to 4 per cent of the ewes in the State, are adjacent to the major sheep area and are in the central and northern part of the State. About 25 per cent of the counties, each of which had 1 to 2 per cent of the ewes in the State had in total about 20 per cent of all ewes. Nearly half of the counties each had less than 1 per cent of the ewes; in total these had only 8 per cent of the ewes.

Pocahontas and Pendleton were the leading counties in sheep production, each with about 24,000 ewes. In each county this represented about 10 per cent of all ewes in the State. In both counties, two-thirds of the farmers kept ewes.

The levels of concentration of ewe population and of quantities of whole milk sold were usually similar, but the areas of concentration were quite different. In each instance about 13 per cent of the counties had 50 per cent of the quantities. Each of these counties had from 4 to 11 per cent of the State total. Another 13 to 15 per cent of the counties had about 22 per cent of the quantities. Each of these counties had about 2 to 4 per cent of the State total. However, only Greenbrier was among the leading counties in both ewes and milk sales. Only four other counties were among the top two groups in both number of ewes and milk sales; these were Summers, Marshall, Monongalia, and Lewis.

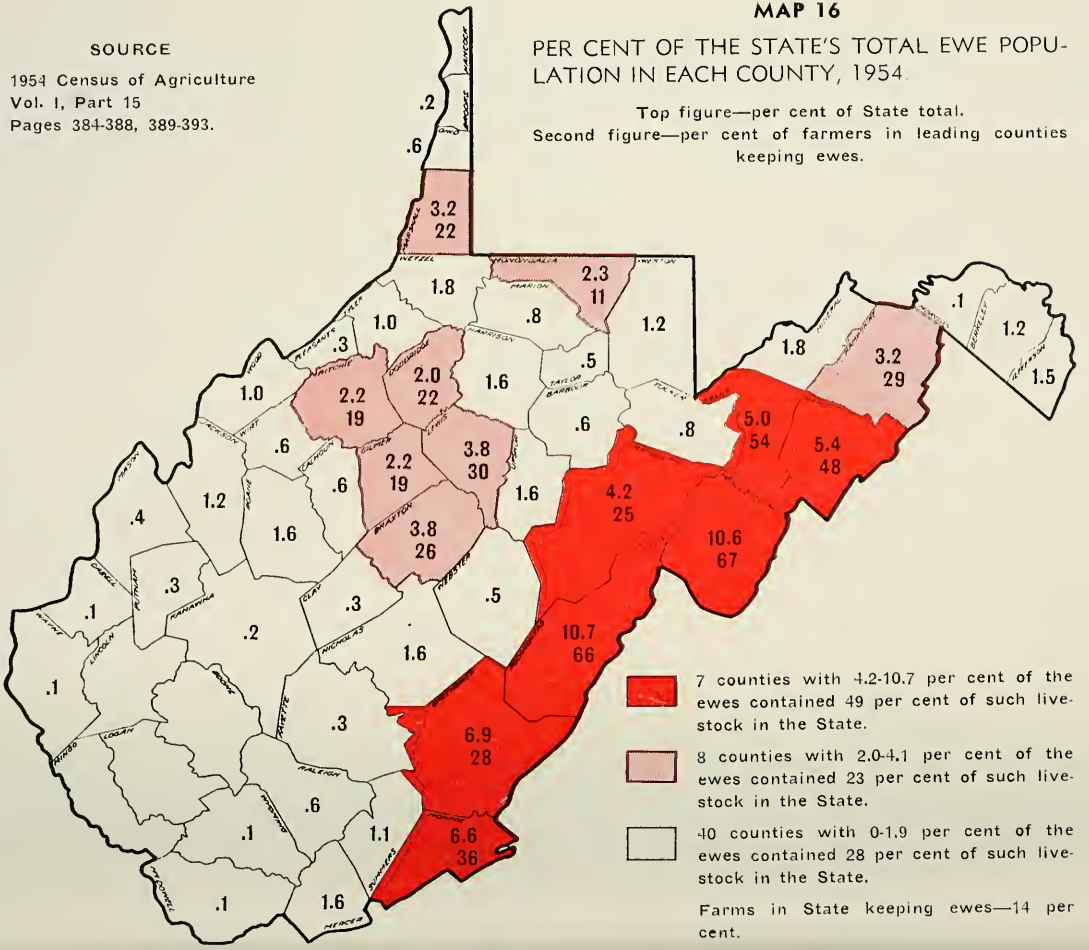
MAP 16

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL EWE POPULATION IN EACH COUNTY, 1954

Top figure—per cent of State total.
Second figure—per cent of farmers in leading counties keeping ewes.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 384-388, 389-393.



HOGS

Hog sales accounted for more than 3 per cent of the cash farm receipts in 1957 (see Table 5).

Half of the sows that farrowed in the State were in one-fourth of the counties (Map 17), mostly along the eastern side of the State. Another fourth of the counties had a fourth of the sows. The remaining half of the counties contained the other fourth of the sows that farrowed.

The 13 counties that contained half of the sows that farrowed were also the leading counties in number of hogs and pigs on farms. These counties and two others, Roane and Mercer, contained 51 per cent of the hogs and pigs.

The number of farmers with hogs on their farms was considerably larger than the number of farmers keeping sows. In the State, 58 per cent of the farmers had hogs, but only 13 per cent had sows that farrowed. Farms with hogs and pigs averaged 4.6 head per farm. Farms with sows averaged 3.0 head per farm.

Jefferson was the leading county in sows farrowed and number of hogs, with 6 per cent of the sows in the State and a similar proportion of hogs and pigs.

BROILERS

Broiler sales accounted for 14 per cent of the cash receipts from farm marketings in 1957 (see Table 5). Broilers were second in importance as a source of farm sales, being exceeded by dairy products. The number of farmers raising broilers was relatively small (only 3 per cent of farmers sold broilers).

Most of the broilers are produced in a small area of the State (Map 18). Three counties in the South Branch Valley accounted for 64 per cent of the production. Another 11 counties had 28 per cent of the production. Except for one county, all of these are in the central and eastern parts of the State.

Hardy was the leading broiler county. It alone produced 25 per cent of the broilers. Nearly half of its farmers sold broilers. Except for the four leading counties, fewer than 10 per cent of the farmers in each county produced broilers.

EGGS

Egg sales are an important source of income. Nine per cent of all cash farm sales came from eggs in 1957 (see Table 5). The income from the sale of eggs and chickens other than broilers was about as large as the estimated income from beef cattle.

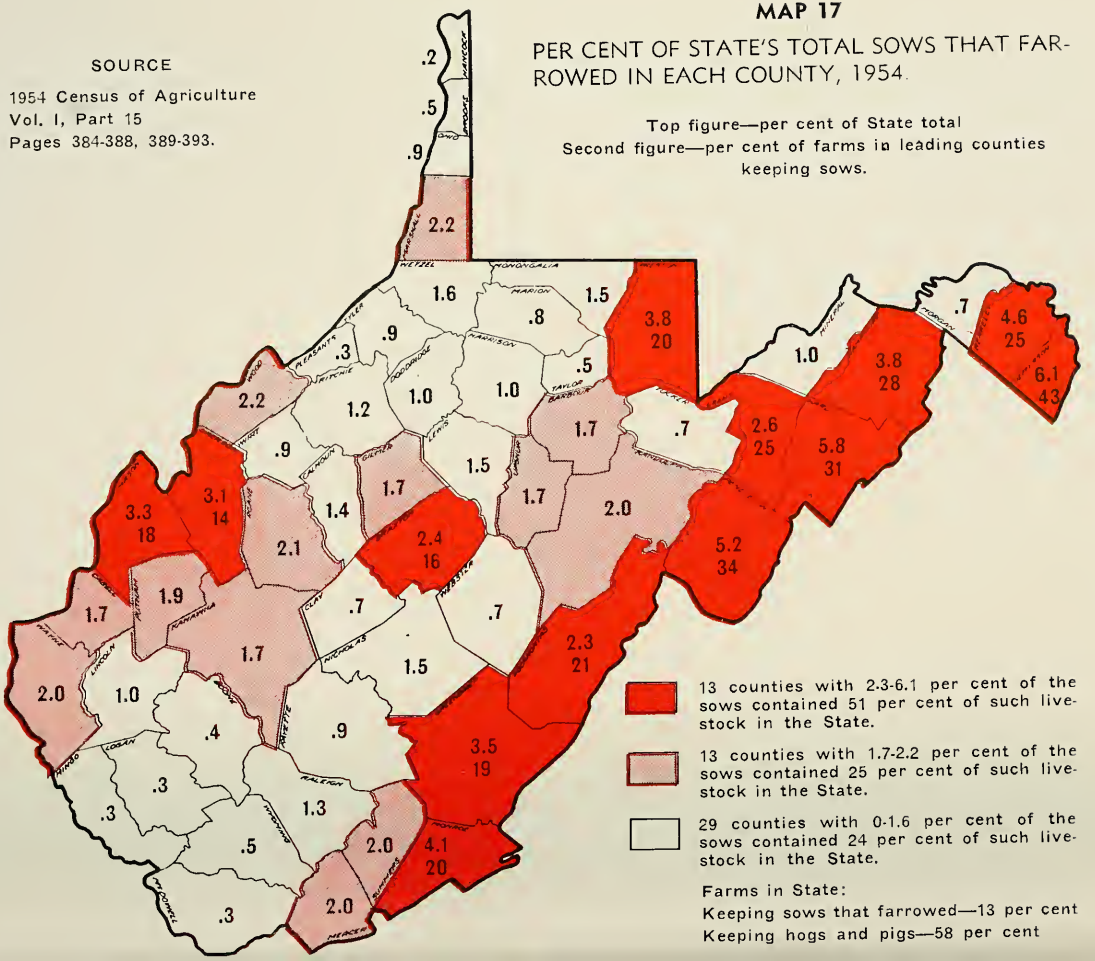
MAP 17

PER CENT OF STATE'S TOTAL SOWS THAT FARROWED IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

Top figure—per cent of State total
Second figure—per cent of farms in leading counties keeping sows.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 384-388, 389-393.



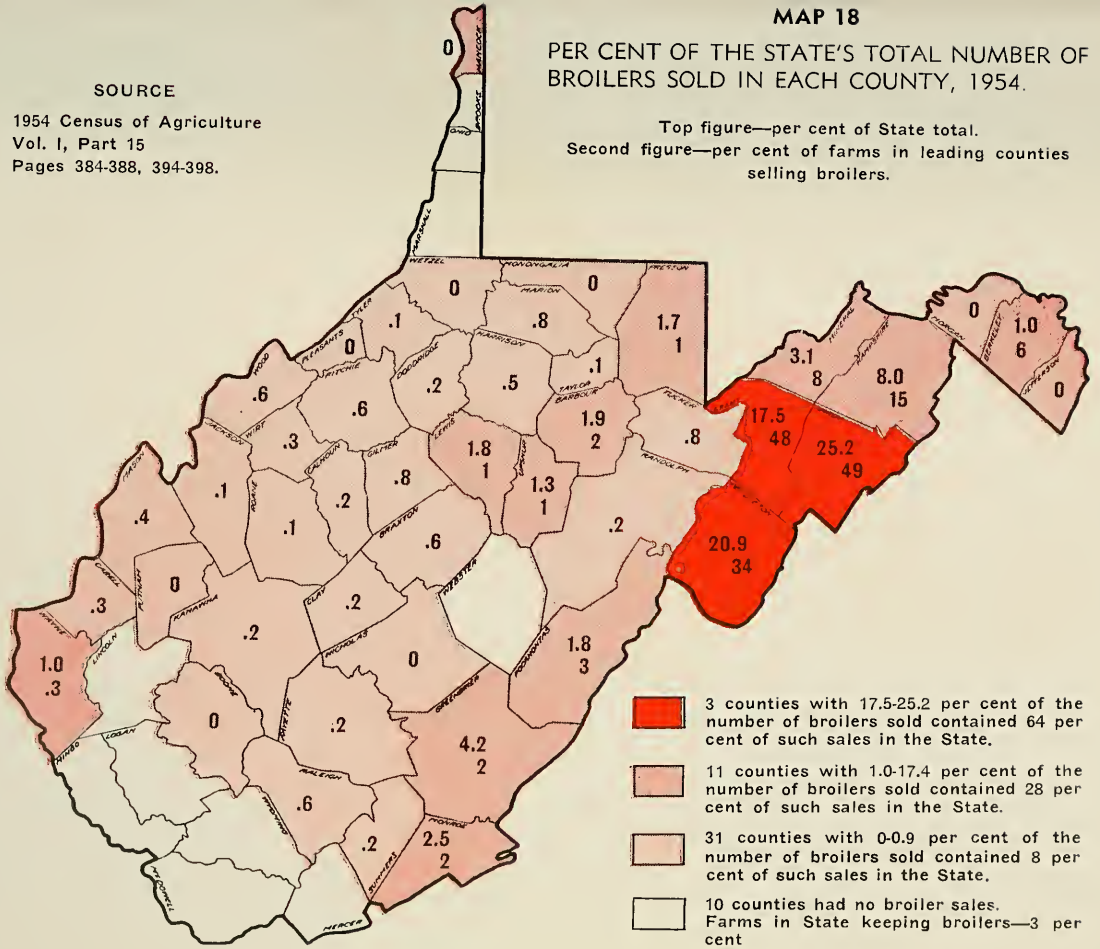
MAP 18

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL NUMBER OF BROILERS SOLD IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

Top figure—per cent of State total.
Second figure—per cent of farms in leading counties selling broilers.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 384-388, 394-398.



As in the case with whole milk sales, a considerably larger proportion of farmers kept the production stock than sold the product. In both cases, 77 per cent of the farmers kept chickens 4 months old and over and milk cows (Map 19). However, only 30 per cent of the farmers sold eggs.

Egg sales were scattered throughout the State. It took 29 per cent of the counties to account for half the egg sales. Most of the counties leading in egg sales were along the eastern and the western areas of the State. Another 36 per cent of the counties accounted for an additional third of the egg sales. The remaining 35 per cent accounted for only 13 per cent of the egg sales. Preston County had the largest volume of egg sales, with 4.7 per cent of the State total. This is a smaller proportion of the state total than was the case for the leading county with other important classes of livestock products.

TURKEYS

The cash receipt from turkeys was about 4 per cent of all cash receipts (see Table 5). Even though the income from turkeys was less than from broilers, a few more farmers had more turkey sales than broiler sales.

Turkey production was concentrated in the Eastern Panhandle. Two counties had more than 50 per cent of the production. Five counties had more than 90 per cent. Twenty-three counties, in various areas of the State, each produced from 0.1 to 0.9 per cent of the State's production. Each of the other 27 counties produced a few turkeys, but their combined production was less than 2 per cent of the State total.

Hardy was also the principal producer of turkeys, with about 31 per cent of all sales in the State (Map 20). This production came from 16 per cent of the farmers in the county.

Relation of Purchased Feed to Livestock Sales

The relationship between feed expenditures and sales of livestock (including poultry sales) varied considerably between counties (Map 21). In 1954, farmers in West Virginia had feed purchases that averaged 43 cents for each dollar of livestock sales.

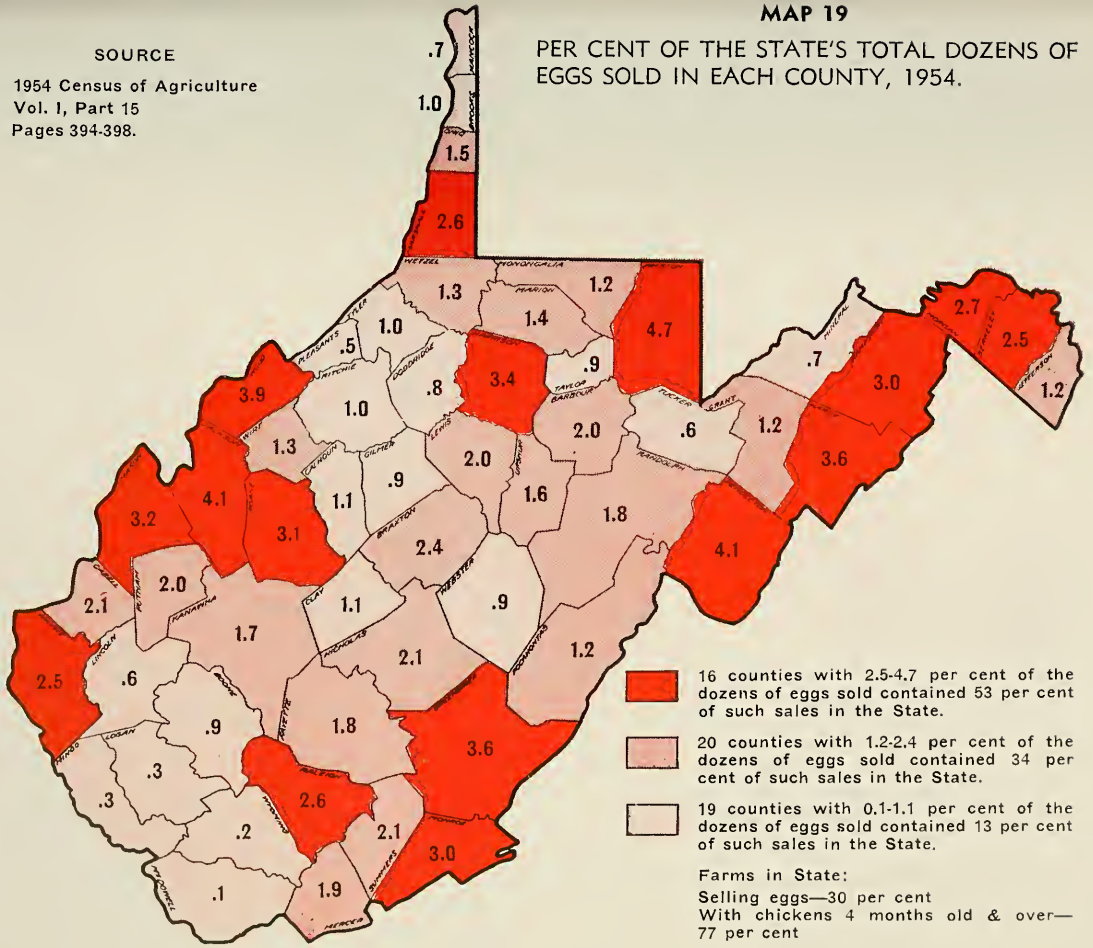
Farmers in 29 per cent of the counties spent less than 31 cents on feed for each dollar of livestock sales. Most of these farms were in the central and northwestern parts of the State. Farmers in another 29 per cent of the counties spent from 31 to 42 cents on feed for each dollar of livestock sales. A third group of counties, equal in number to the other two groups, had feed costs of 43 to 73 cents on feed for each dollar of livestock sales.

MAP 19

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL DOZENS OF EGGS SOLD IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 394-398.



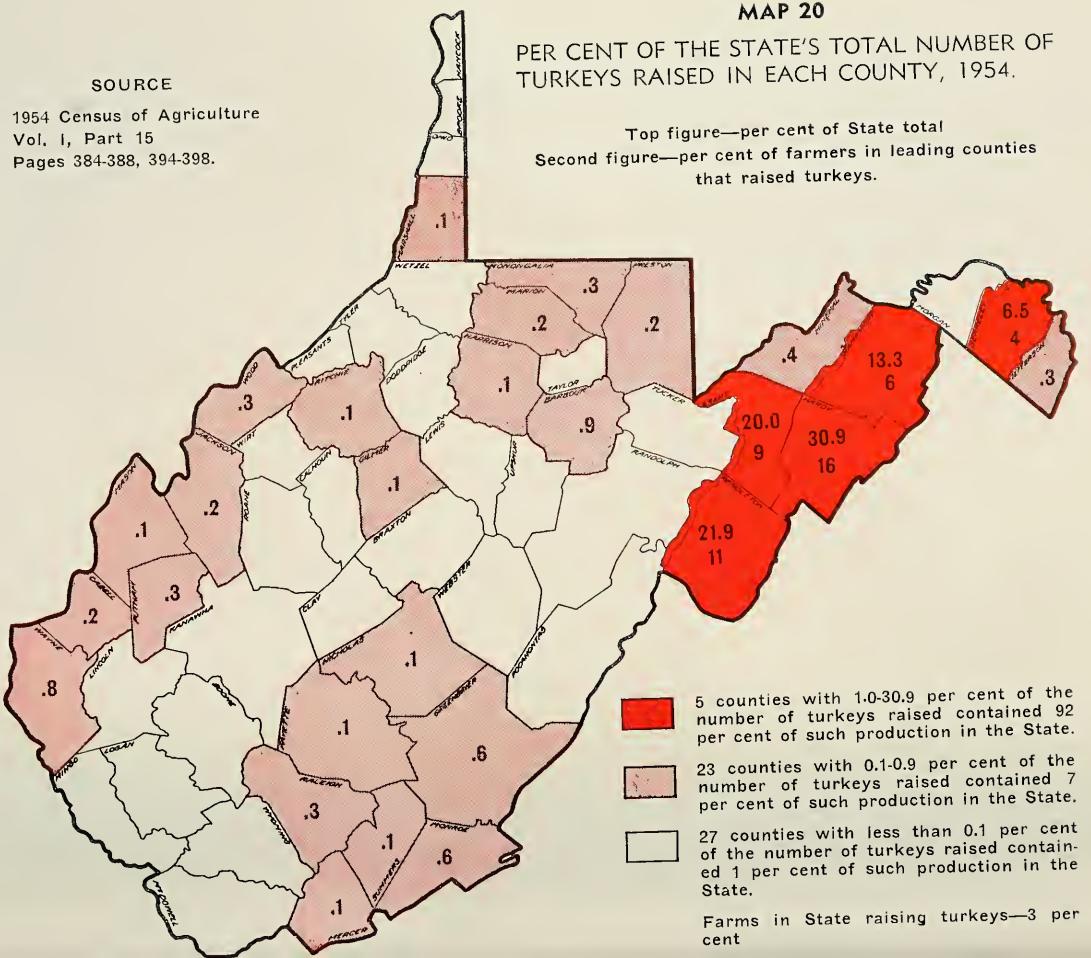
MAP 20

PER CENT OF THE STATE'S TOTAL NUMBER OF TURKEYS RAISED IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 384-388, 394-398.

Top figure—per cent of State total
Second figure—per cent of farmers in leading counties that raised turkeys.



5 counties with 1.0-30.9 per cent of the number of turkeys raised contained 92 per cent of such production in the State.

23 counties with 0.1-0.9 per cent of the number of turkeys raised contained 7 per cent of such production in the State.

27 counties with less than 0.1 per cent of the number of turkeys raised contained 1 per cent of such production in the State.

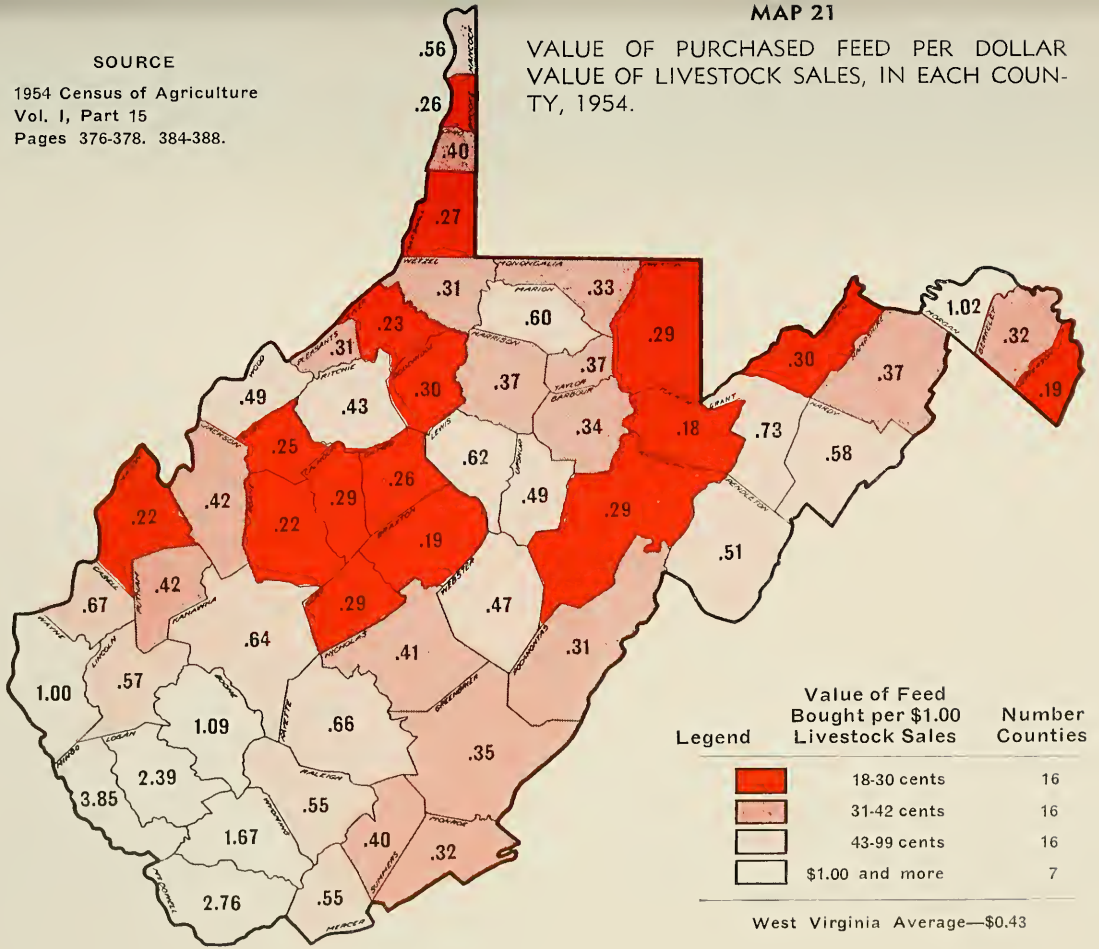
Farms in State raising turkeys—3 per cent

MAP 21

VALUE OF PURCHASED FEED PER DOLLAR VALUE OF LIVESTOCK SALES, IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 376-378. 384-388.



Thirteen per cent of the counties had feed purchases that exceeded the value of livestock sales. One of these counties was in the Eastern Panhandle, and the others were in the southwestern part of the State.

In some counties feed purchases were low relative to livestock sales. This indicates that home-grown feeds were utilized in producing market livestock.

In some counties feed purchases were high relative to livestock sales. In some of these, turkey and broiler production was relatively important and most of the feed was purchased. In some other counties a considerable proportion of the farms had low farm incomes. On these farms a large part of the livestock production was used for home consumption and their value did not become a part of farm sales.

Large expenditures for livestock and poultry feeds are concentrated in a relatively few counties. Three counties—Hardy, Grant, and Pendleton—account for 35 per cent of all feed expenditures in the State. These were leading poultry and livestock counties, and they were the leading counties in broilers and in turkeys. Hardy County was also second in hogs. Pendleton County ranked second in beef cows and in ewes and third in importance in sows and eggs sold.

One-half of the expenditures for feed occurred in eight counties. Besides Grant, Hardy, and Pendleton, the leading counties, in order of importance included Greenbrier, Hampshire, Lewis, Berkeley, and Jackson.

Types of Farms

In the 1954 Census, farms were classified by economic groupings. Major groupings include part-time, residential, and commercial farms. Only seven counties in the State had more commercial farms than part-time and residential farms.

Of the commercial farms each was classified on the basis of type of farm. In order to be classified in a particular type, sales or anticipated sales of a product or group of products had to represent 50 per cent or more of the total value of products sold. Six principal types were classified. These were poultry, dairy, other livestock, fruit, field crops other than fruit and vegetables, and general farms.

When all commercial farms in the State, without regard to their county location, were classified as to type, 40 per cent were livestock farms other than dairy and poultry. Another 22 per cent were dairy farms and 15 per cent were poultry farms. The field crop farms, other than vegetables and fruit farms, made up 11 per cent of the total. Fruit farms were 3 per cent, and 9 per cent were classified as general farms.

Each county was also ranked on the basis of leading types of commercial farms. This ranking included the three types having the largest numbers of farms within each county. In a few instances a fourth type of farm had similar numbers to that type listed as number three; however, these fourth types were not shown in the classification (Map 22).

When counties were classified on the basis of the leading type, 54 per cent were livestock other than dairy and poultry. This means that there was a larger number of commercial farms in these counties with 50 per cent or more of the income from beef, sheep, hogs, and goats than from any other type class. The income from livestock other than dairy and poultry was so important that 93 per cent of the counties had this classification in first, second, or third place.

Dairy counties were second in importance. Using the leading type of farm as the basis for classification, 24 per cent of the counties were classed as dairy counties. When all three of the top rankings are included, 69 per cent of the counties had a dairy type classification.

Only 5 per cent of the counties in the State were classified as poultry type on the basis of the first ranking. These counties were Grant, Hardy and Pendleton When all three of the top rankings were included, 56 per cent of the counties had a poultry type classification.

In 11 per cent of the counties, field crop type farms held the first ranking. However, only 18 per cent of all counties had field crop farms among the three leading types.

Only 4 per cent of the counties had more fruit type farms than other types. In total only 13 per cent of the counties had fruit farms among the three leading types. None of the counties had sufficient numbers of vegetable farms for this type to be listed among the three leading ones.

The general type of commercial farm led in only 2 per cent of the counties. However, this type was among the top three for 51 per cent of all counties.

Ranking Agricultural Counties

The 1954 Census of Agriculture ranked the 100 leading counties in the Nation on the basis of selected items. None of the counties in West Virginia were among the 100 leading counties on the basis of value of all farm products sold in 1954. Seven counties in the State were among the leading ones in poultry or fruit (Table 9). All these counties are in the Eastern Panhandle area.

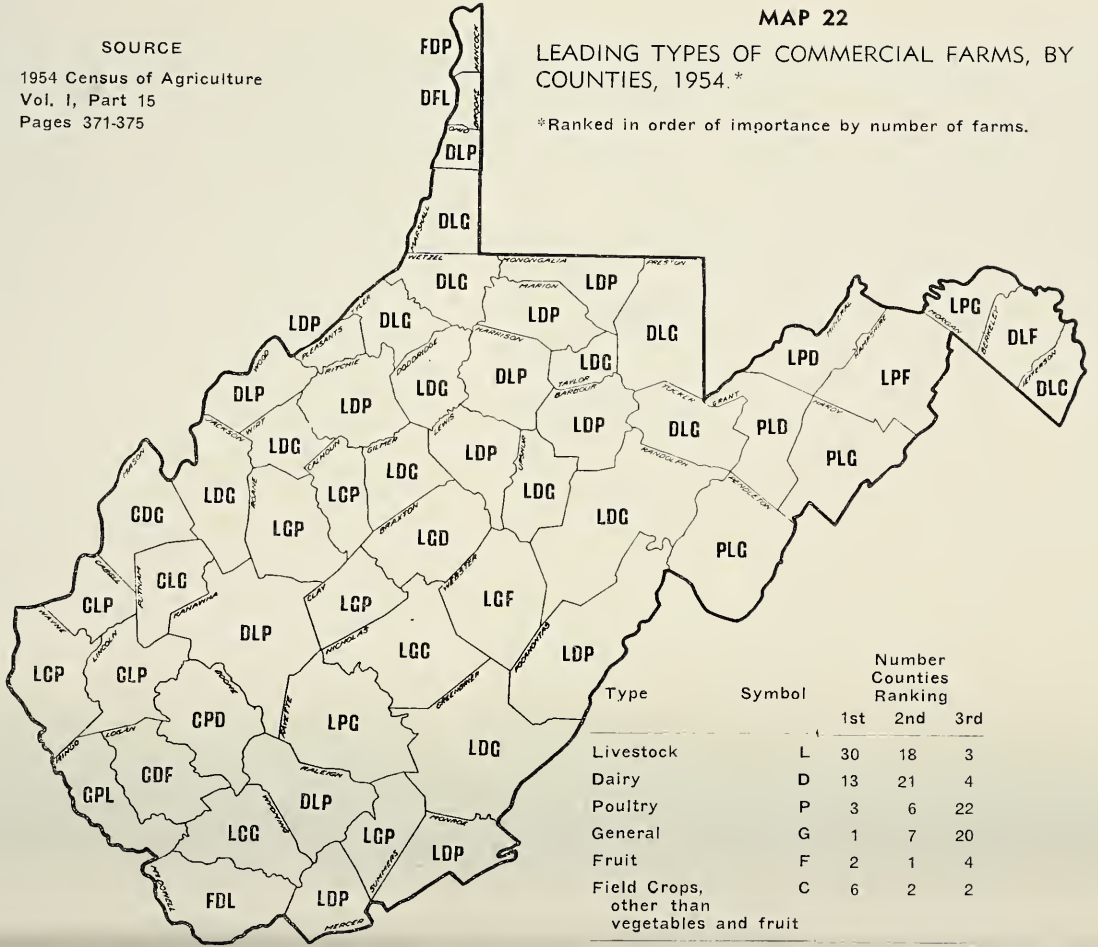
MAP 22

LEADING TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY COUNTIES, 1954.*

*Ranked in order of importance by number of farms.

SOURCE

1954 Census of Agriculture
Vol. I, Part 15
Pages 371-375



Type	Symbol	Number Counties Ranking 1st	2nd	3rd
Livestock	L	30	18	3
Dairy	D	13	21	4
Poultry	P	3	6	22
General	G	1	7	20
Fruit	F	2	1	4
Field Crops, other than vegetables and fruit	C	6	2	2

Table 9. West Virginia Counties Ranking Among the 100 Leading Counties in the United States, 1954.*

Selected Items For Ranking	Ranking By Counties						
	Hardy	Grant	Pendleton	Hampshire	Berkeley	Jefferson	Morgan
Chickens—Value sold	29	46	33				
Turkeys—Number raised	12	25	18	43			
Turkey hens for breeding—Number	15						
Poultry & poultry products—Value sold	38	69	58				
Fruits, berries and nuts—Value sold					63	66	
Apples—Quantity harvested				25	9	10	46
Peaches—Quantity harvested				33	22		
Cherries—Quantity harvested					64	48	

*U. S. Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954, Vol. III, Part 2, Ranking Agricultural Counties.

Level-of-Living

The economic position of farmers can be measured on the basis of level-of-living index. Such an index is available on a county basis for all counties in the Nation.[9] The index was based on the relative position of farm families for electricity, telephones, automobiles, and average value of products sold or traded.

In 1954, the West Virginia average level-of-living index was below the national average, but above the low one-fifth in the Nation (Map 23). With the index adjusted so that West Virginia averaged 100, the national average was 132. An index of 95 and below was in the low one-fifth in the Nation.

Within West Virginia the county level-of-living index ranged from 60 in Lincoln County to 158 in Hancock, Brooke, and Ohio counties. Eleven per cent of the counties had indexes in the top half of the Nation. These were the three most northern counties and the three most eastern counties. Another 31 per cent of the counties had level-of-living indexes above the State average, but below the national average. These were in the northern and eastern parts of the State. Nine per cent of the counties had indexes slightly below the State average, but they were not included in the low one-fifth of the Nation. Nearly 50 per cent of the counties were in the low one-fifth in the Nation in level-of-living. These were in the central and southern parts of the State.

[9]Haygood, Margaret Jarman, *et al.*, *Farm-Operator Family Level-of-Living Indexes for Counties of the United States*, 1945, 1950, and 1954, USDA, AMS, Stat. Bul. 204 Mar. 1957.

These economic situations among many West Virginia farmers are not good. They need to be improved. Improvements can be made. The more effort that is directed toward improvements, the more rapid will be the progress. Benefits from an improved agriculture are not limited to farmers. Others in the State will gain. Therefore, the problem is of concern not only to farmers but to others, particularly those in industry, education, and government.

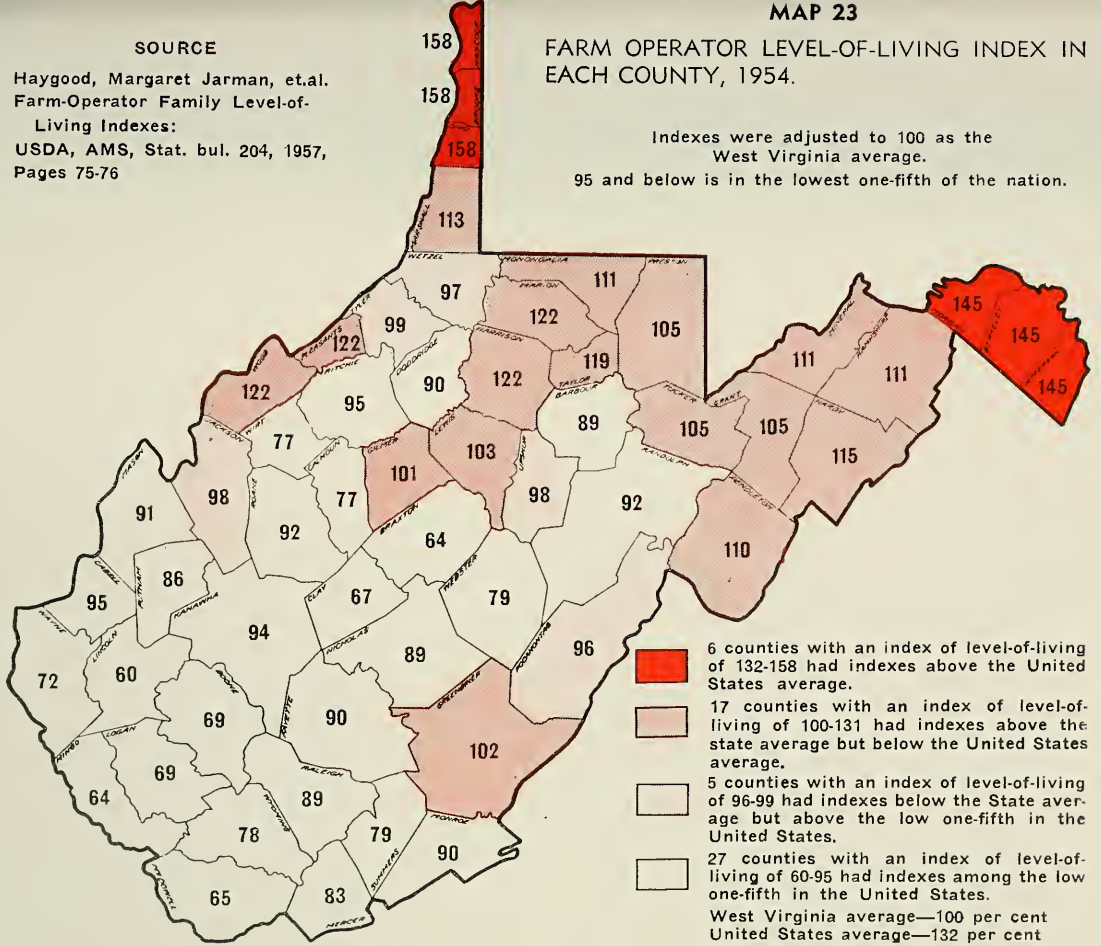
MAP 23

FARM OPERATOR LEVEL-OF-LIVING INDEX IN EACH COUNTY, 1954.

Indexes were adjusted to 100 as the West Virginia average.
95 and below is in the lowest one-fifth of the nation.

SOURCE

Haygood, Margaret Jarman, et.al. Farm-Operator Family Level-of-Living Indexes: USDA, AMS, Stat. bul. 204, 1957, Pages 75-76



6 counties with an index of level-of-living of 132-158 had indexes above the United States average.

17 counties with an index of level-of-living of 100-131 had indexes above the state average but below the United States average.

5 counties with an index of level-of-living of 96-99 had indexes below the State average but above the low one-fifth in the United States.

27 counties with an index of level-of-living of 60-95 had indexes among the low one-fifth in the United States.

West Virginia average—100 per cent
United States average—132 per cent